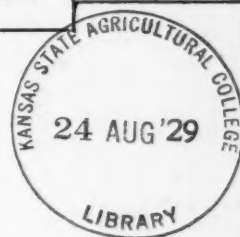


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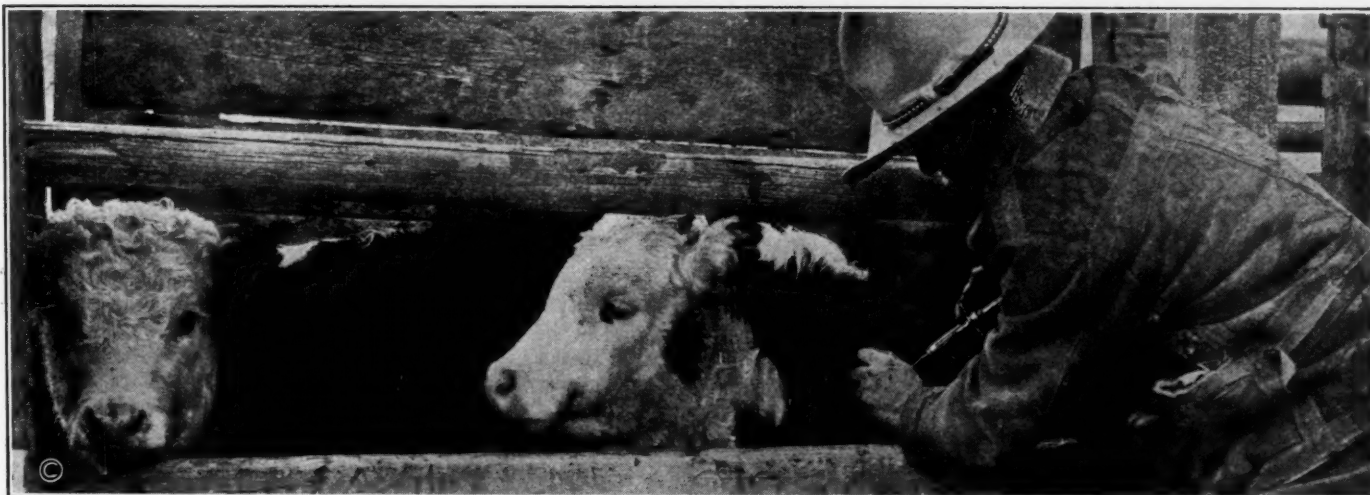
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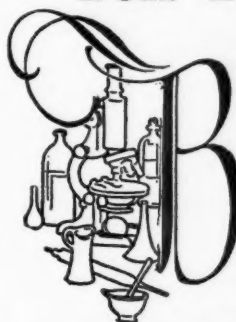




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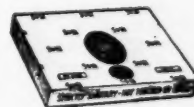
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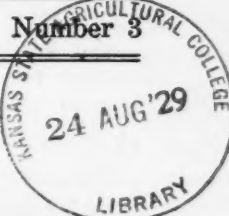
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THE PRODUCER

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume XI

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כשר

What "Kosher" Means to the Meat Industry

BY RUDOLF A. CLEMEN

Associate Director, Armour's Live Stock Bureau, Chicago Illinois

EVER SINCE THE DAYS OF MOSES, orthodox Jews have held closely to the dietary commands of this ancient biblical lawgiver. These early regulations were gradually transformed into custom, and observance of them in the daily preparation and consumption of food has been considered as much a part of Jewish religious life as adherence to the principles of the Decalogue itself.

Gentiles have always known of certain customs of the Jews—for example, the prohibition against eating pork; but most of their beliefs concerning *kosher* meat, its preparation and use, are based on misconceptions and vague, general ideas, without basis in fact. The present article is an attempt to state clearly just what "koshering" means today in the meat industry of the United States, and how the "kosher" practices are observed among modern Jews.

Meaning of Word "Kosher"

"Kosher," in brief, means that which is wholesome according to religious rules and regulations of the Jewish faith. There are various degrees of wholesomeness, indicated by the fact that Jews refer to some meat as being kosher, but to other meat as being *more* kosher. "Kosher" is a Hebrew word meaning "fit" or "proper." As applied to meats, it signifies those meats which it is proper for the Jewish people to eat. These kosher meats must be cut from such animals as the Mosaic law defined as clean. They must come from animals which have been

slaughtered in strict conformity with the rules of *Shehitah* (the ancient dietary regulations of the Hebrews).

The main emphasis in the kosher-meat trade is on beef, though this classification includes, not only beef itself, but lamb, mutton, veal, and, indeed, poultry. Therefore all meat animals slaughtered for consumption by orthodox Jews throughout the world are closely supervised by authorized representatives of the Jewish faith. In a modern, practical, non-religious, commercial world and civilization, such as we have built up in this country, it is unique to have the most important single article of food for a considerable racial group prepared in accordance with ancient customs, each of which is tinged with religious significance.

Religious Aspect Unusual in Modern Life

Ignoring the modern trend toward the mechanical and unemotional and unreligious, all meat for consumption by the Jew is prepared according to the Mosaic law set down three thousand years ago. Furthermore, the diet of the orthodox Jew is closely regulated by religious restriction, covering not only the kinds of food which may be consumed in general, but in every case the conditions under which such foods may be used.

When the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness near Mount Sinai, under the leadership of Moses, and there established the Mosaic system of slaughter

and preparation of meat animals for food, they were probably the first people to inaugurate a regular system of inspection of meats after the slaughter of live stock. The reason for setting up such a system was undoubtedly hygienic. It was an attempt on the part of the leaders of Judaism to lay down and enforce common-sense rules of health concerning diet which would preserve the race.

Modern koshering of meats is based on Deuteronomy 12:20-24, which passage provides that when the Jewish people had "enlarged their border," as the Lord had promised they should do, and were so far away from the tabernacle of the Lord that it would be impossible for them to bring their offerings directly to the altar of Jehovah, they might kill and eat within their own gates. The Jews still observe the restrictions placed upon the portions of the carcasses that may be eaten. They eat only the meat of the forequarters of cattle, sheep, and goats. In Leviticus may be found minute directions concerning the various offerings of meats. In theory, only the best portions of the animals were acceptable as offerings, and what remained was eaten by the priests and the people.

Special Slaughterers for Kosher Killing

The extent to which this religious supervision of slaughter of meat animals has been carried since that time can be seen from the fact that no one is allowed to slaughter and inspect animals for the Jewish meat trade except a *shohet*—that is, cattle-killer. The slaughter work is considered highly technical and is classed by the Jews as a separate profession. The *shohet* must go through an extensive and lengthy training period of both study and probation, and pass a rigid examination by a qualified rabbi of the Jewish faith, before he can undertake the slaughtering of animals for consumption by Jews. A *shohet* must be a Jew of good character, religious, and possessed of some culture. Certain persons, such as minors, uneducated people, deaf-mutes, morons, and non-observant Israelites, cannot act as *shohetim*. Persons whose hands tremble or those addicted to drink cannot act. Satisfactory evidence of good moral and religious character must be presented before a license can be given by the rabbi. If a *shohet* shows any wilful violation of Judaism, disbelief in its traditions, or disregard for its laws of diet, he may be disqualified. His education must include all the rules of *Shehitah*, and he must know how to kill expertly, and actually kill at least three animals in succession, in the presence of a competent *shohet*, before he can be qualified. Finally, he must be thoroughly acquainted with the normal and pathological condition of live-stock anatomy, and must be proficient in the examination and setting of the knife and in killing.

Prohibition of Pork to Jews

At present, as throughout history, the orthodox Jew is a big consumer of beef, lamb and mutton, veal, poultry, and fish. This is largely due to the fact that religious restrictions forbid his use of pork and pork products. The regulations regarding the eating of pork, which is forbidden to the Jew, were undoubtedly called forth by the fact that hogs had been considered as scavengers, as indeed they were until modern methods of handling came into vogue. However, a more important explanation is the religious one. Many ancient peoples, including the Jews, looked on the hog as the abode of the devil or the evil one. Hence the Semitic avoidance of pork in any form. Naturally the hog fell into bad repute, as being detrimental to health and unclean. Because of this avoidance of pork, the demand for beef on the part of the Jewish trade has always been very important for the packing industry, on account of the Jewish custom of using beef for boiling, especially for soups, and the most desirable source of this sort of meat is the forequarter. Gentile trade, on the other hand, demands beef for roasts, broiling and frying, and the ribs and hindquarter cuts are better adapted to this purpose.

Clean and unclean animals are described so minutely in the Old Testament that there can be no doubt as to what was meant. The eleventh chapter of Leviticus deals with the matter at length, as follows:

And the Lord spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth. Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is cloven-footed and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.

Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. And the coney, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. And the hare, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you. And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven-footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you. Of their flesh shall ye not eat, and their carcass shall ye not touch; they are unclean to you.

Method of Slaughtering

As very little has ever been written on the subject of kosher meat, it is interesting to note the method of kosher slaughter. Animals killed for the kosher trade must be bled from the throat. For example, cattle which are kosher-slaughtered are not permitted to be knocked before bleeding, as is the practice with cattle for the regular trade. They are driven into the knocking-pens one at a time, and the door of the pen is raised about two feet, while one hind leg is shackled. The ring in the shackle chain is then connected with the hook of the hoist, and, at a given sig-

nal, the door of the shackling-pen is raised, and the animal is lifted by one leg from the pen. The beef is then lowered so that the shoulder rests on the floor, with the hindquarter still suspended from the hoist.

Calves and sheep are either thrown and held on the floor, or are hoisted and suspended from the shackle chain and held in a convenient position, with head drawn back to expose the throat for the *shohet*. In the case of beef, a muzzle with a leverage attachment is placed over the snout and jaws, and the head is drawn back until the neck is taut, so that the throat is completely exposed. The cutter then slits the throat from ear to ear with one straight cross and back stroke. This must be done absolutely according to rule. Simply one cross stroke or three strokes will not be acceptable. It must be only one stroke—forward and back.

It is interesting to note that the kosher *schlachers*, or cutters and inspectors, are provided with a small inclosure adjacent to the knocking-pens. This inclosure is for the purpose of giving them a place to sharpen and inspect their knives, and a place to perform their religious ceremonials.

In cutting the throat, the *shohet* severs the jugular vein and other large blood-vessels leading to the head, as well as the gullet and windpipe. In general, the same style of slaughter is performed on other animals slaughtered kosher style. Although the Jewish law prescribes that a qualified representative of the church perform the act of slaughtering, it is permissible for a Gentile to assist the *shohet* in the work of holding the animal in proper position while the act is being performed.

Reason for Kosher Slaughter Method

There are two important reasons why so much emphasis is placed upon the method of slaughter. The first reason is that it is considered essential to cause instant death. A knife cut in the throat deep enough to sever the windpipe and gullet is considered deep enough to cause instant death. The second reason is to permit a rapid and free flow of blood from the carcass. This is a very important part of the Jewish regulations, and is the result of a strict interpretation of the Mosaic law found in Leviticus 17:14, which is as follows:

For it [the blood] is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof; therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: Whoever eateth it shall be cut off.

Again, in Genesis 9:3-4 we find this passage:

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

This injunction against the eating of blood is the

first law laid down in the Pentateuch concerning the eating of meats. Additional laws are laid down in other portions of the Scriptures, and again and again



PASSED BY THE "SHOHET"

the injunction is repeated that the Jew shall be sure that he eats not flesh with the blood thereof.

Five Points to Be Observed

To summarize, five points have to be observed according to the rules of *Shehitah*, in order that the slaughtered animal may be kosher. These are:

1. *Shehiyyah*. There must be no pause. The incision must be continuous until all the vital parts are severed. A pause for an instant, voluntary or involuntary, renders the killing improper.

2. *Derasah*. There must be no pressing upward or downward, or any hacking. The object is to secure positive, quick action in making the incision.

3. *Haladah*. There must be no burrowing. The



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knife must not be introduced under the skin as in stabbing, or covered by the wool of the sheep or the hair of the steer. The incision must be free, open, and exposed, so as to drain the brain quickly, and thus render the animal unconscious immediately.

4. *Hagrama*. The incision must be made in a

prescribed region of the neck, viz., through the trachea, preferably below the cricoid—the complete cartilaginous ring just below the larynx. It must not be through the larynx nor through the heavier muscles farther down the throat.

5. *Ikkur*. There must be no laceration, but a clean cut, not a tear. Hence the knife is examined after the operation as well as before, to make sure that it is perfectly smooth.

Examination of the Carcass by Kosher Inspection

The handling of the carcass on the bleeding-rail and skinning-beds is the same as that for other cattle, calves, and sheep, except for the kosher inspection. After the beef has been lowered to the cattle-beds, the hide is ripped open down the brisket and belly for the convenience of the kosher inspector or searcher. A knife hole is opened in the belly at the brisket point. It is through this hole that the inspector or searcher makes his inspection of the lung cavity. The arm is thrust into the belly and an opening made through the diaphragm into the chest cavity. The lungs and ribs are thoroughly examined for adhesions, growths, or presence of foreign matter.

The theory upon which the kosher inspection is based is the antiquated belief that, if there is any disorder in the system of the animal, it will be reflected in the condition of the lungs. In addition, search is made for ruptured or weakened blood-vessels; for the theory is that the slightest lesion may have released blood into the flesh. If the condition is such that it would probably cause the death of an animal within a period of one year, the carcass is considered unfit for food, and is *treifah*, in which case the carcass is marked on the brisket with a cross inside a circle. If the searcher is satisfied with the condition of the animal, he marks the brisket in Hebrew letters, giving the date of slaughter and the name of the searcher who made the inspection. (See accompanying illustrations.)

Government Inspection in Addition to Kosher

It must be understood that the inspection made by the searcher in no way influences the activities of the federal inspectors. The Federal Meat Inspection Act does not recognize kosher killing, and the inspectors working under the Federal Meat Inspection Service cannot accept the kosher inspection as a reliably scientific inspection. For example, the adhesion of lungs to the ribs which causes rejection by the Jew has no significance for a veterinarian today. On the other hand, it is not uncommon to have the government inspectors condemn carcasses that have been passed by the kosher inspector. This is due to a more thorough examination that is given all animals slaughtered in plants under government inspection.

The theory that any disorder in the system of an animal will show up in the lungs has long been discarded by scientists.

Carcass Cut Used by Kosher Trade

Contrary to common belief, both the forequarter and hindquarter of meat animals (except pork) are eligible for consumption by the Jewish trade, if properly handled by the kosher retailer. The requirement of the religious law is that all veins must be removed before delivery of the meat to the consumer. For this reason, the Jewish trade confines itself to the forequarter, from which the veins may be easily and quickly removed, with a minimum amount of mutilation to the meat.

There is no objection on the part of the Jewish trade to the hindquarter carcass cuts, such as loins and rounds, if they are handled in accordance with the religious requirements that the blood-veins be removed. The veins in these parts are very small, and their complete removal necessitates such mutilation of these parts as practically to destroy their identity. For this reason, the demand in this country is confined to the forequarter, which can be bought at lower prices and from which the veins can be removed with a minimum amount of mutilation.

Delivery of Kosher Meats

The Jewish law requires that meat must be consumed within seventy-two hours after slaughter, or it must be washed and reinstated by a representative of the church. The meat is then considered kosher for another seventy-two hours, after which it must be rewashed. After the expiration of another seventy-two hours the meat is then considered *treifah*, and is believed to be no longer fit for Jewish consumption. Because of the fact that meat must be consumed so soon after slaughter, it must move to the trade as fast as possible. This condition accounts largely for the fact that the bulk of the beef consumed in New York City is shipped east alive and slaughtered at plants adjacent to this market.

The Jew requires a very high grade of meat animal. The New York trade buys the best heavy cattle and choice light cattle, most of which are steers, although some fat cows and heifers are used. The kosher trade in Chicago furnishes the best outlet for chucks, plates, and briskets from heavy steers and from various grades of cows, as well as a few fed bulls and bolognas. It is necessary to use high-grade steers for kosher meat because, judging from the normal meat-trade standards, the poorer part of a beef carcass (i. e., the forequarter) is used, and therefore, in order to get a reasonably good forequarter cut, it is necessary to take it from a high-grade carcass. Because of the kosher trade and the fact that

it takes only the forequarters of beef carcasses, packers have found it necessary to buy three times as many cattle for the kosher demand as are necessary to supply a demand for an equal amount of beef in regular trade channels.

Kosher Trade Cause of Live Shipments

Nearly one-third of the population of New York City is Jewish. Because beef after three days following slaughter is no longer kosher, unless washed by the *shohetim* in the coolers according to the rules laid down by Mosaic law, most cattle bought for use in the kosher trade are killed in or near the cities where the beef is consumed. This is the underlying reason why large numbers of live cattle are shipped from the great live-stock markets, such as Chicago and Kansas City, for slaughter in the eastern consuming sections, such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

It is well known that cattle going into the kosher trade represent the best of their respective classes and grades. They must, according to the ancient scriptural rule, be of "the best of the herds and flocks." Because the kosher trade demands the best grades of cattle, it is quite natural that, at times of heavy demand for kosher beef, the market for the better grades of cattle at all markets strengthens, with a less proportionate increase in the other grades. Naturally, the greatest demand for kosher grades of cattle falls on those days immediately before the Jewish feasts and festivals. On the other hand, the kosher trade ceases preceding the Jewish fast periods.

Extent of Kosher Trade

The extent of the kosher trade in the United States can be approximately estimated from the number of Jews living in different sections. Most of the Jews in the United States live in the following eight states, according to the last census: New York, 1,701,260; Pennsylvania, 340,000; Illinois, 257,000; Massachusetts, 199,300; Ohio, 177,690; New Jersey, 163,180; Missouri and Kansas, 92,160. The Jewish population of the United States, according to the latest figures available, is 3,600,350. New York City is credited with 1,643,000, which is about 29 per cent of the entire population of New York City. The other cities of the country with big Jewish populations are: Philadelphia, 200,000; Chicago, 225,000; Boston, 77,000; Cleveland, 100,000; St. Louis, 60,000; and Greater Kansas City, 25,000.

The Jews since leaving Palestine have been a non-agricultural people, and therefore are found for the most part in the industrial cities, especially cities in the East. It is for this reason that there is so much demand for kosher meat in the East. The Chicago kosher trade, however, is a sizable one, requiring the kosher-

ing of about 126,000 head of cattle, 66,000 calves, and 44,000 sheep every year. From the figures already given of the Jewish population, it can be readily seen that the kosher-beef trade in this country is one of the important factors of the cattle and calf markets of the Middle West. The fact is that the demand for kosher beef or veal in cities with Jewish population along the Atlantic seaport, as well as elsewhere, is so great that 25 per cent of all steers sold under federal inspection in the United States are koshered. Besides steers, many heifers and cows are koshered, and bulls also, although in smaller numbers.

When one comes to definite localities, the percentage of kosher slaughtering to the total slaughter is much higher. For example, in Greater New York about 33 per cent of the beef carcasses consumed in the metropolitan area are slaughtered locally under federal inspection. Practically all of these cattle are koshered, and this percentage is, in round numbers, half a million steers. This means that the number of steers koshered in the plants in New York City account for about two-thirds of all the steers koshered in the United States. Comparison of the Jewish population by states indicates that the majority of the remaining one-third of the koshered steers are consumed in the other cities of the Atlantic seaboard, and that only a relatively small number are koshered for use in inland cities.

There is another reason, not as yet mentioned, which explains why the kosher trade demands well-fattened cattle. This reason is that the fat from the beef carcass supplies the fat used in cooking in Jewish homes. Naturally, lard cannot be used, because swine are considered unclean. Unlike the situation in Gentile homes, no butter can be used in cooking meats; for a tradition has grown into usage among the Jews, based upon the scriptural saying: "Thou shalt not seethe a kid in its mother's milk." This explains why the fats from koshered beef forequarters are in great demand.

A. K. MITCHELL AS HEREFORD FIELDMAN

BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 1929, Albert K. Mitchell, of Albert, New Mexico, has taken up the duties of southwestern fieldman for the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association and the Texas Hereford Association, to which position he was unanimously chosen at a recent meeting of a joint committee of the two organizations.

Mr. Mitchell, who, with his father, owns and operates the Tequesquite Ranch at Albert, in northern New Mexico, is one of the outstanding cattlemen of that state, and brings to his new position a lifetime's experience in the breeding and selling of pure-bred Herefords. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the American National Live Stock Association, and last autumn was elected president of the American Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association.

LINE-BREEDING

BY L. C. BRITE
Marfa, Texas

THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION between the terms "inbreeding" and "line-breeding." The writer does not assume to know just where to draw the line. I once heard a prominent and successful breeder of Hereford cattle say: "To breed half-brother and sister, or more closely related individuals, is 'inbreeding;' but to breed more distantly related individuals is 'line-breeding.'" In the absence of anything better, I have always accepted this as a satisfactory definition.

Because of the limited number of Hereford cattle, the pioneer Hereford breeders through necessity practiced inbreeding more than is done at this time.

The method of inbreeding as practiced by the management of the Gudgell & Simpson firm, the originators of the famous Anxiety 4th strain, was at that time generally criticized by breeders. The writer purchased bulls from this famous herd on several occasions, and one time, while being driven through the pastures by the lamented Charles Gudgell, I was arguing against his practice of inbreeding. I thought I was making some progress, until he pulled up by the side of a perfect specimen of cow, and remarked: "There is the offspring of half-brother and sister. What's the matter with her?" I had to confess that I could discover no visible defect. The argument ceased. I deemed it useless to contend further against the "proof of the pudding."

The constant demand for the Anxiety 4th strain proves that there is a large percentage at least of the breeders of today who favor line-breeding, and also proves Mr. Gudgell the most successful and skilful breeder of his time.

Personally, like a great majority of range cattlemen, I was at one time seemingly unalterably opposed to line-breeding—so much so that I would not buy from the same herd twice in succession, but would usually wait a period of years, as a means of safeguarding my herd against the supposed ruinous effects of line-breeding.

My position has changed. From a staunch advocate of out-crossing, I have now become an ardent believer in line-breeding. My changed position is not the result of any far-seeing good judgment, but was brought about, as will be seen, through necessity forced on me by a combination of circumstances over which I had no control.

As I remember, it was about the year 1915 that the foot-and-mouth disease broke out in Missouri and Kansas. I was afraid to go there for bulls, as had been my custom. In fact, the disease was spreading so rapidly that I considered it unsafe to ship in bulls from any source. Of necessity, I saved bull calves of my breeding, which I bred in a pasture separated from my other cattle. The result was so gratifying that I continued using bulls from my own herd.

In the wild animal kingdom, all beasts, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects are instinctively and distinctively line-bred. We have seen deer and antelope using the same range, but they did not interbreed. There are also several species of deer, but they do not mix one with the other. There are numerous tribes of birds, with various species in each tribe. For instance, in the duck tribe we have mallards, teals, butterballs, spoonbills, and various other species—all so distinctively bred as to be recognized at sight. Not only are they uniform in color and plumage, but also in size and flavor.

We know that all snakes are bad and worse. When we hear a rattler, we do not expect to find a coach-whip. We are familiar with the tribe that inherits the rattle.

We readily recognize the fish at a glance. We know if it

is good for food, and about how it will taste. In fact, we almost recognize the kind of fish by the way it bites or nibbles at the hook.

There are several species that belong to the ant tribe. When I was a boy, I was so familiar with the habits of a certain red ant that I knew exactly what he would do if he got on my bare foot. He would invariably create a bearing-down sensation.

Thus it will be seen that the tendency of the animal kingdom is toward line-breeding—that intensive line-breeding is necessary in order to perpetuate the uniform characteristics and peculiarities of each tribe. This rule applies to the breeding of the domestic herd as well. It is through line-breeding that the most satisfactory results are obtained. Then, too, the one fact which looms above all others is that the man who has practiced line-breeding is, so far as I know, satisfied with the results.

RECOGNITION OF NEW PRICE STANDARDS

BY JAMES E. POOLE

RELUCTANT RECOGNITION of the new standard of cattle values is inevitable in beef-making circles. That this standard has increased the hazards incidental to feeding is not open to successful contradiction. What it means may be variously construed. Probably the individual operator will decide to get along with fewer cattle, acquire them at less weight, make cheaper gains at the initial stage, and conclude the operation with a forced feed, in which concentrates will cut a wide swath. The obsolete practice of laying in fleshy cattle at beef, or near-beef, prices, making costly gains on the short-feed plan, and finally taking a chance on striking an advancing market, is no longer accepted. Feeders must adapt their methods to changing conditions, if the hazard is to be minimized. Eliminating that hazard is impossible.

Just about a year ago, feeders, regular and otherwise, indulged in a brainstorm, paying war prices for fleshy cattle, the majority returning to market to sell at a loss. Nothing resembling that furore has been in evidence this season, supercaution being the watchword, although fleshy cattle have gone back to the country at \$13.50 to \$15.40, not enough of this business being done to create possibility of a jam at the return stage. The average feeder is thinking no more about \$14 cattle than about his prospect of acquiring a package of eternal bliss, but he is giving the subject of replacement his "strong thought." Some have already contracted their winter cattle for fall delivery; others have serious intention of doing so at an early date; while still others, in confidence of an October break, are displaying the same spirit of procrastination as the small boy, sent for sour milk by his mother. Informed that only sweet milk was available, he said, resignedly: "Well, I'll wait till it sours."

That the waiting contingent is somewhat dubious of this dilatory strategy is evident. Its policy is inspired by expectancy that the serious break late last year will be repeated, ignoring the fact that conditions are different; also, that markets rarely repeat the previous season's performance. A "wise guy" element is making contracts for standard-bred cattle, at going prices, on a somewhat extensive scale, this trade including calves, much of the southwestern crop of bovine youngsters having changed hands at least twice already, and is so strongly held that price recessions are impossible. The range on calves, per head basis, has been \$45 to \$52.50, efforts to contract choice packages at the latter figure in Wyoming and Montana having been unsuccessful, as growers figure that wintering profitably is possible. By the time deliveries begin, it is likely that the

bulk of the standard-bred calves and yearlings on the southwestern breeding-ground will have been placed. What the selling policy of the Northwest will be is still open to conjecture, but impossibility of getting access to any cheap cattle, in the sense that they have been cheap in the past, is a cinch bet. The grower is too thoroughly apprised of the intrinsic value of his property.

Another class of stock cattle, known as "good kinds," "useful," "business," "good doers," and similar phraseology, indicating lack of standard breeding, will be popular with those desirous of getting as many steers as possible for their money. This type of steer, regardless of weight, is adaptable to winter feeding, and, during the January-to-June period of narrow spreads, condition rather than quality is the price-determining factor. There is still another type, or assortment of types, popularly known as "snipes," "yellow-hammers," and "dogs," that have been money-makers, not because they make cheap gains or are easy feeders, but for the reason that they have heretofore been available in considerable numbers at relatively low prices, insuring wide margins between initial cost and final appraisal. To secure such cattle, under an impression that they are necessarily profitable, many feeders are likely to switch, putting them on a relatively, if not actually, high basis. It will not follow that they cannot be fed out to pay their board, as so urgent and broad is trade demand for lower-grade light carcasses during the early part of the year that even common steers have a legitimate place in the beef-making sphere.

During the ensuing hundred days feeders will resort to considerable strategy to secure the cattle they need. This need is recognized. In fact, all over the region east of the Missouri River an insistent call for cattle is audible. It will not be repressed by interest rates, and, at this writing, it seems impossible that sufficient vicissitude will camp permanently in the fat-cattle market to deter investment. Paraded as the "poverty" of agrarian America has been, the indisputable fact remains that the Corn Belt has ample funds wherewith to replenish feed-lots, and that an increasing percentage of feeders are in a position to finance their own purchasing. Some money has been lost during the past three years, it will be conceded, but the balance is substantially on the other side of the ledger. Handlers of heavy cattle have scored heavy losses and bonanza profits alternately; those finishing light cattle have had a less hazardous game, insuring good average results, although not the spectacular winnings of a considerable number of big-steer fitters who, through intuition, sagacity, or luck, "struck it right."

The burden of this argument is that present cattle values are legitimate, from an investment standpoint. Inflation, especially the variety that developed about a year ago, is not in evidence anywhere. This absence of inflation renders sharp declines late in the year improbable, if not impossible, as neither potential nor actual demand will be satisfied meanwhile. The grades of light stock cattle selling at \$9.50 to \$11 per cwt. at the Missouri River and Chicago recently constitute good property, unless majority opinion is far astray. What daily and weekly price mutations may be during the investment season no one can foresee. Possibly opportunity to pick up bargains will develop. If so, they will be brief, as the whole country needs cattle.

Barring August hot winds, September frost, and other types of calamity that frequently damage the maturing crop, corn is an excellent prospect, especially west of the Mississippi River. Illinois and Indiana were handicapped by excessive moisture early in the season, but during July the crop made surprising growth. Some of it may be caught by frost, but

it will make feed; and no one ever saw the stock-cattle market injured when necessity for salvaging soft corn arose. Hay, also, is abundant, with no prospect of converting it into a cash commodity except through the medium of live stock—mainly cattle.

Any western cows which killers do not take readily will find a feed-lot outlet. The kind bought last fall at \$6.50 to \$7 per cwt. returned in butcher condition to realize anywhere from \$10 to \$11, invariably paying well for their board. They have given more satisfaction as feeders than as breeders. Heifers, other than calves, will be scarce as feeders, as any kind of a heifer wearing a beef covering is promptly grabbed by killers.

Amid all the uncertainties of the fall stock-cattle movement and winter beef production, one cinch is that the proportion of heavy steers installed will be small, especially when contrasted with the heavy "buy" last year, which kept the fat-cattle market constantly glutted from January to June. Relieved of this burdensome tonnage, the whole market should, and probably will, average higher than during the first half of 1929, when a mass of well-conditioned, but not qualified, big bullocks exerted a more or less demoralizing influence. Regardless of the fact that a considerable quantity of the product of a large number of steers weighing 1,300 to 1,500 pounds can still be utilized, so unstable is demand for heavy beef, and so uncertain is the market for plain and rough weighty cattle, that no hardship would be inflicted on consumers or processors if they were eliminated from supply. The plain or coarse-bred calf that gets into a feeder's hands becomes beef before it acquires sufficient weight to develop into a nuisance. No rule is applicable, except that only standard-bred cattle should be carried into the 1,300-pound stage. Apply that rule, and the overweight steer would cease to figure as a price-disturber and market-demoralizer.

THE JULY MARKET SLUMP

BY JAMES E. POOLE

SEMI-DEMORALIZED CONDITIONS in every branch of the live-stock market late in July are susceptible of various, more or less plausible, explanations. Hot weather was one generally attributed cause. Housewives were credited with deserting the kitchen *en masse* and, wherever water was available, donning bathing suits to secure relief. All around the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic seaboard water displacement was unprecedented, owing to this human invasion.

Coincident with repressed demand for fresh meats, cured product developed popularity. Fireless kitchens in hot weather mean that sausage and other cooked cured meats have been substituted for fresh. The delicatessen shop thrives at the expense of the meat market. High temperatures invariably affect fresh-meat demand adversely.

A bull corn market, following the upturn in wheat, prompted many a feeder to order cars prematurely. Advancing feed cost, flies, and hot weather is not a combination calculated to hold cattle in the feed-lot when they are almost ready to go. The high mid-July market determined thousands of cattle-holders to cut loose, and the first sign of the break stimulated a stampede. Tight money may have had something to do with it, as bankers have not been in the mood to renew cattle paper. Feeders remembered what happened at the market late last September, prompting them to consider cattle sold well disposed of. Most people appear suspicious of the October-to-December market, owing to its bad performance last year; but they overlook the fact that repetition is rare, and that what the majority expects seldom happens.

At the high spot in July, cattle values became unduly lofty,

in the sense that the proper parity between the different grades was impaired. In the subsequent and inevitable readjustment, this out-of-line condition was not only remedied, but, as usual, the pendulum swung to an extreme in the other direction. Such remedial action confounds the spurious philosophy of those who contend that new conditions have been created, the irrefutable fact being that what has happened may, and usually does, happen again.

High prices were maintained on common and medium cattle through the spring and early summer periods, owing to scarcity. When a late, but voluminous, run of southwestern grassers began, demand for the cheaper grades of beef was appeased, prices crashing.

Holding big hogs until midsummer always has been doubtful policy, and probably always will be, especially when provision and lard stocks are of generous volume, as was the case in this instance. Had the country cashed these hogs in May and June, results would have been more satisfactory. Excessive tonnage, not numbers, handicaps the hog market and provision trade. Lard, heavy hams, big loins, and slabby bacon are not popular with the great army of consumers. Adapting production to customer requirements is essential, if not imperative.

Western lambs moved two weeks later than usual, a big crop of native lambs was dumped into the eastern market hopper, and hot weather put a crimp in the sale of legs, which require oven heat. Even a slight increase in supply was sufficient to break the dressed market severely under such conditions. The line between enough and a little too much is finely drawn, especially in the case of perishable food commodities.

BEEF CAMPAIGN OPENS AT ST. LOUIS

STANDING ROOM was at a premium at the first big meeting for the retail meat trade in the national beef-consumption campaign, held at St. Louis on July 9. Approximately five hundred crowded into the auditorium at the Kroeger Stores warehouse to witness the beef-cutting demonstration which is a feature of the campaign being sponsored by the American National Live Stock Association, the beef breed associations, the beef-packers, and the National Live Stock and Meat Board. The program is being conducted under the direct supervision of the last-named organization.

The demonstration presented new and modern methods of cutting the beef carcass. D. W. Hartzell, the demonstrator, is to conduct work of this nature from coast to coast before audiences of retailers, packers, housewives, students, and others.

In introducing the work to his St. Louis audience, Mr. Hartzell explained the purpose of the program at some length.

"The fundamental purpose of the beef demonstration," he said, "is to bring about benefits to all branches of the industry as well as to the consumer. This demonstration is the culmination of long study and experimentation. We have assembled the best thoughts of retailers and packers throughout the country on this subject. In order to assure the success of the work, it is imperative that we have the close co-operation of retailers, packers, and other branches of the industry.

"As we see this demonstration now, there are at least four major objectives which it should reach. It should—

"1. Make possible a better utilization of the entire beef carcass."

"2. Establish methods of cutting which will be economical and advantageous to the packer and the retailer.

"3. Establish, in so far as possible, uniform methods of cutting beef.

"4. Encourage the practice of offering the product to



NEW BEEF-CUTTING METHODS DEMONSTRATED AT ST. LOUIS

Beef-consumption campaign opened by National Live Stock and Meat Board before employees of Kroeger retail stores, St. Louis, July 9

the consuming public in the most appealing and convenient form."

Regarding the last point, Mr. Hartzell pointed out that this is the age of the small and attractive package in food products; that smaller families, kitchenettes, automobiles, and other factors of this modern day have combined to bring into favor the food that catches the eye as well as the appetite, and that is easily handled in preparation. He emphasized the thought that beef must keep pace with this trend of the times.

The demonstrator proceeded to carve the side of beef into many cuts, which exemplified to the fullest extent his contention that the package must be thoroughly attractive as well as palatable to assure merchandising success. For an hour or more the audience sat intently watching his every move. At the close there was a flood of questions.

The Kroeger Company, for whose employees the demonstration was held, operates more than four hundred stores with meat departments in the city of St. Louis. The audience included, not only meat-cutters, but the company executives.

Mr. Gibson, manager of the stores, was profuse in his commendation. He assured the board representative that the beef cuts made at the demonstration would be found in his company's markets the next day, and instructed his men present to make the cuts which they thought would be best adapted to their trade.

NEW PRODUCER ORGANIZATION

AS A SEQUENCE to the series of meetings held in Nebraska in June, a permanent organization of producers and feeders of cattle and hogs from Nebraska and adjoining states was formed in Omaha on July 5. The new organization, which is to be known as the Interstate Live Stock Producers' Committee, will have for its object the promotion of meat consumption, in close co-operation with the National Live

Stock and Meat Board. Harry Hopley, a breeder and feeder of Atlantic, Iowa, was chosen chairman, and Dan Hildebrand, president of the Nebraska Cattle Feeders' Association, vice-chairman.

For the purpose of outlining a plan of operation, a second meeting was held at Omaha on August 9, at which representatives from producers' and feeders' associations in Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota were present.

MEETING OF ARIZONA SHEEPMEN

THE ARIZONA WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION held its forty-third annual meeting at Flagstaff on July 9 and 10, with a large number of sheepmen and visitors in attendance. The program was excellent throughout, and the meeting was one of the best in the history of the organization.

The opening session, called to order in the court-house by the president, A. A. Johns, was addressed by Governor John C. Phillips, who commended the association for its good work, its co-operative spirit, and its friendly relations with other industries. Following Governor Phillips, President Johns reviewed the work of the association during the past year, and told of the objects and aims in view for the future. In closing, he said that the country is on the threshold of the greatest era of prosperity the world has ever seen. In the report of the secretary, Colonel H. B. Embach, which followed, questions of local interest were dealt with, such as legislation, the matter of finances, relations with the Forest Service and the railroads, trespass cases, and the poisoning of sheep-killing dogs. Others who spoke at this session were P. G. Spilsbury, of the Arizona Industrial Congress, Phoenix, and John Kerr, assistant district forester, Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the report of the Wool-Marketing Committee, which came next, T. E. Pollock advised the formation of pools for selling the state's wool clip,

saying that the one formed by himself and associates had been very successful and had netted from two to four cents more per pound than was received for other wools sold outside the pool.

At noon the convention was adjourned for the day, and the delegates and visitors taken to the summit of the San Francisco Peaks, where an open-air lunch was served. An entertainment was to have followed the luncheon, but was interfered with by a drenching rain, which broke a drought of long standing.

On the forenoon of the second day the speakers were: Don C. Babbitt, state land commissioner; C. L. Walker, superintendent of the Western Navajo Agency; Mrs. T. J. Hudspeth, vice-president of the women's auxiliary of the National Wool Growers' Association; Dr. R. J. Hight, state veterinarian; J. H. McClure, of Phoenix, general freight and passenger agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad; W. J. Treleaven, F. L. Hanna, and C. C. McCarty, of the Santa Fe Railroad; Charles C. Rittich, executive vice-president of the Valley Bank of Phoenix; Carl J. Walters, vice-president of the Arizona Central Bank of Kingman; Edward I. McDonald, of Kansas City, general traffic manager for the Rock Island Railroad; and A. W. Hilliard, wool-dealer of Boston, who predicted better prices for the 1930 wool crop.

It was announced at this session by Secretary Embach that the \$100 prize offered by A. W. Hilliard, of Boston, for the three best fleeces of Arizona wool shown at this convention had been awarded as follows: James McRae, first prize, \$50; Mrs. H. G. Locket, second prize, \$30; and S. A. Sponseller, third prize, \$20. The silver trophy cup offered by the Hawaiian-American Steamship Company for the best Arizona fleece had been awarded to Locket and McRae.

The final session on the afternoon of the second day was given over to the business matters of the association. The resolutions adopted are as follows:

Urging officials of Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railways to co-operate against delays heretofore existing on perishable shipments through Phoenix originating at points on either line;

Condemning persistent trespassing along driveways, and concurring in the Forest Service ruling that any trespasser shall be denied the right of return over the driveway.

All the officers were re-elected for another year: A. A. Johns, president; Charles E. Burton, first vice-president; E. H. Duffield, second vice-president; and Aubrey Gist, third vice-president.

WYOMING WOOL GROWERS AT CASPER

CASPER, on July 18-20, was host to the members of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, meeting in their twenty-sixth annual convention. An attendance of more than five hundred listened to the addresses presented before that militant organization, covering every angle of the problems facing the industry, from a national as well as a local point of view. Dominant among the issues discussed were the questions of the public domain, the tariff, and the popularization of lamb through a continuation of the campaign for increased consumption started last year. With regard to the first of these matters, on which Wyoming occupies a position somewhat at variance with that of the other range states, the opinion was voiced by ex-Governor Brooks, who spoke outside of the formal program, that, if things could not be left as they were, which was their first choice, then the sheepmen of Wyoming would prefer having the public lands turned over to the states, in accordance with the plan recently outlined by Secretary of the Interior Wilbur.

Thursday morning, July 18, opened with the report of J. B. Wilson, secretary during many terms, who was followed by President Thomas Cooper, delivering the annual presidential round-view of conditions within the industry. In the afternoon the convention was addressed by Albert M. Day, of the Biological Survey; W. B. Tagg, ex-president of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange, who presented the "Value of the Live Stock Exchange;" F. W. Robinson, vice-president of the Union Pacific System, Omaha; H. J. Gramlich, of the University of Nebraska, whose subject was "Keeping Abreast of the Times;" and Dr. Cecil Elder, of the University of Wyoming, who spoke on "Some Newer and Less-Known Diseases of Wyoming Sheep."

The second day's proceedings were led off by J. A. Hill, of the University of Wyoming. He was followed by John W. Hay, of Rock Springs, who addressed the convention on "Wool Marketing." A. W. Zelomek, statistician of the Fairchild Publications, New York City, gave a talk on "The Long-Term Trend of Wool Prices." Claude L. Draper, chairman of the Wyoming Public Service Commission, concluded the morning's program. In the afternoon, M. E. Cullen, one of the wizards of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, gave a lamb-cutting demonstration. H. R. Davison, of the Institute of American Meat Packers, spoke on "Our Mutual Problems," followed by F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, who pleaded for closer co-operation among producer organizations.

The program on the last day was opened by Dr. Howard Welch, of the University of Montana, who dealt with "Sheep Diseases and Their Treatment." John T. Caine, III, formerly chief of the Packers and Stock-Yards Division, spoke on the "International Live Stock Show." The subject of "Lamb Feeding" was presented by E. J. Maynard, of the Colorado Agricultural College. The session was ended by a witty speech on "Pleasure First—Business Later," in which P. H. Shallenberger, of Lost Cabin, scored the policies of the Forest Service in its dealings with the stockman.

These resolutions were passed:

Requesting that duty on all wools, other than carpet wools, be at same rate, on basis of clean content;

Demanding immediate establishment of necessary live-stock trails;

Reaffirming indorsement of French-Capper truth-in-fabric bill, and instructing secretary of association to take action to enforce Wyoming truth-in-fabric law;

Urging Chief Forester to make transfers of grazing rights of stockmen wishing to change from cattle to sheep on same national-forest ranges as now used by permittees;

Opposing all legislation that would place public lands under federal control;

Protesting against repeal by Congress of existing land laws;

Objecting to creation of new national parks, national forests, or federal game preserves in State of Wyoming, or enlargement of those now established;

Opposing enactment of Kendrick bill (S. 1333);

Condemning methods of further control of natural resources of nation by bureau officials and departments;

Indorsing National Wool Exchange and recommending its support;

Urging that fair and equitable valuation be placed on agricultural and grazing lands for taxation purposes;

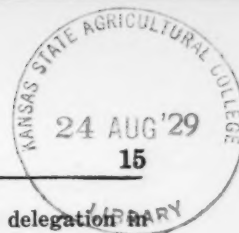
Recommending enforcement of present laws regarding collection of inspection fees on all sheep brought into state;

Advocating appointment of state railroad commissioner to bring about adjustment in freight-rate structure;

Indorsing ten-year program introduced in Congress for control of predatory animals;

Appreciating efforts of Bureau of Animal Industry in safeguarding interests of stockmen, and requesting continuation of embargo on imports from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists;

Recommending that assessment of one cent a head on all



sheep and lambs shipped to central markets or feed-lots be levied for use of National Wool Growers' Association and National Live Stock and Meat Board in campaign for increasing consumption of lamb and mutton.

In the election of officers, all the present incumbents were given an additional term: Thomas Cooper, Casper, president; Malcolm Moncreiffe, Big Horn, vice-president; J. B. Wilson, McKinley, secretary-treasurer.

Next year's convention will go to Buffalo.

MIDSUMMER MEETING OF COLORADO STOCKMEN

WE BELIEVE that the Colorado Stock Growers' Association is the only one of the state organizations to make a practice of holding midsummer conferences, where problems coming up between the regular annual sessions may be debated while they are still green in the minds of the membership. As on former occasions, this year's meeting was held at Gunnison, on the Western Slope. Here, on July 16, a large number of stockmen from all parts of the state had come together.

The topic that formed the focal point of interest was the extent to which the association should get behind the campaign for increasing the consumption of beef, launched by the American National Live Stock Association at San Francisco last winter, and now in progress under the direction of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. At the Annual Feeders' Day at Fort Collins in May it had been proposed to levy an assessment of 5 cents a head on all cattle and 3 cents on calves originating within the state, for helping finance this movement, subject to the approval of the association at the mid-year meeting. After considerable discussion, this recommendation was duly ratified. The resolution also provided that this assessment is to be collected at all recognized public stock-yards on animals shipped to market, or remitted by the seller on stock sold at home. Three-fourths of the amount is to be turned over monthly to the National Live Stock and Meat Board for the conduct of the campaign, while one-fourth is to go to the Colorado Stock Growers' Association for carrying on its work.

Other matters receiving attention were the prevention of thefts of live stock by means of trucks, and widening the scope of the organization by taking in the feeders of the state. This latter proposal was agreed to, and it was at the same time decided to change the name of the association to the "Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association."

Other resolutions indorsed the activities of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, recommending that all organizations of cattle-producers and feeders in the United States be requested to make available amounts similar to that voted by the Colorado association for the board's beef-advertising program; expressed pleasure at the election of Charles D. Carey, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, as chairman of the Meat Board; commended the American National Live Stock Association and members of Congress for their aid in securing recognition for live stock in the new tariff bill; indorsed the work of the Biological Survey in eradication of predatory animals; and thanked the railroads for giving advance information of shipments, in the interest of orderly marketing.

CONVENTION OF COLORADO WOOL GROWERS

ON THE LAST DAY OF JULY the youthful Colorado State Wool Growers' Association, the most recent accession to the ranks of western sheep-raisers' organizations, held its third

annual convention at Monte Vista, with a large delegation in attendance from all parts of the state. Among the features of the meeting was a lamb-cutting demonstration by M. O. Cullen, of the National Live Stock and Meat Board. It was decided in the future to employ a paid secretary, who is to give his full time to the affairs of the association.

Resolutions adopted requested the county commissioners to provide funds, to the amount of one-third of the sum contributed by the Biological Survey, for the control of predatory animals in each county; this arrangement to supplement the money derived from the tax on live stock authorized by the last legislature for this purpose, which is deemed insufficient if local wool-growers' associations withdraw their contributions. Other resolutions indorsed the eat-more-lamb campaign, and recommended an assessment of one cent a head on all lambs marketed for its support; thanked President F. J. Hagenbarth and Secretary F. R. Marshall, of the National Wool Growers' Association, for their endeavors in the interest of an adequate tariff on the products of the sheep industry; commended Dr. C. G. Lamb, state veterinarian, and Dr. W. E. Howe, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, for their work in looking after the health of the sheep of the state; and vigorously protested against any increase in freight rates on live stock.

W. C. Osborne, Fruita, was re-elected president, and R. E. Sellers, Alamosa, and Hollis Mills, Hartsel, vice-presidents. Next year's meeting will be held at Salida.

NORTHWESTERN COLORADO CATTLEMEN ORGANIZE

AT A MEETING IN CRAIG, last month, of cattlemen from Routt, Moffat, and Rio Blanco Counties, in northwestern Colorado, an organization was formed for the mutual benefit of cattle-growers in that part of the state, and for the additional purpose of taking an active part in having the law for division of the range between cattlemen and sheepmen, passed by the last legislature, tested in the courts.

J. J. Jones was chosen president, and Thomas S. Iles secretary-treasurer, of the new organization, which will bear the name of the Routt-Moffat Cattle Association.

SHEEPMEN TO FIGHT DIVISION OF RANGE

AT THE LAST SESSION of the Colorado General Assembly a law was passed dividing grazing on the public domain between cattlemen and sheepmen according to priority of use. In case of dispute, the law provides that the matter is to be put up to the state district court for decision.

While this statute generally has the support of the cattlemen, who fathered the bill in the legislature, most of the wool-growers are bitterly opposed to it. A test case has now been brought which is to determine the constitutionality of the act, in that cattlemen in the Kannah Creek and Whitewater district, in the western part of the state, have petitioned the court to exclude sheep from a large portion of range in this district. The sheepmen are banding together in defense of their interests.

TWO NEW CO-OPERATIVES ORGANIZED

TO EXTEND CO-OPERATIVE SERVICE to live-stock producers, two new corporations have recently been created—the National Order Buying Company and the Producers'

Live Stock Credit Corporation. The former is largely a reorganization and expansion of the Eastern States Company, established five years ago, in co-operation with the Ohio and Indiana Farm Bureaus, with headquarters at Columbus, Ohio. It will be owned and controlled by co-operative sales agencies at the principal live-stock markets.

The Credit Corporation will take over the business already developed by the organization set up by the Producers' Live Stock Commission Association at East St. Louis and Chicago. Its authorized capital stock is \$500,000, and its total resources \$5,000,000.

SOME PACKERS TO CONTINUE HOG BONUS

LAST MONTH THE PRODUCER recorded the decision of three of the larger packers—Armour, Cudahy, and Dold—to discontinue the payment of the bonus of 10 cents a hundred-weight on hogs originating in counties accredited as free from tuberculosis. Following a conference of packers who favored continuing the premium, it is announced that, beginning September 1, hogs, in order to be eligible, must be tattooed with a code assigned to each individual producer and registered with the live-stock commissioner.

Among the packers who will continue paying the 10 cents are Swift, Wilson, the Allied Packing Company, and a dozen or so minor concerns, principally in the Middle West.

FARM INCOMES RISING

FARM RETURNS for 1928 were the best for any year since the depression following the World War, according to the annual survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Reports from 11,851 owner-operated farms in all parts of the country give an average net income for 1928 of \$1,334, as compared with \$1,290 for 1927, \$1,133 for 1926, \$1,297 for 1925, \$1,205 for 1924, \$1,020 for 1923, and \$917 for 1922. Twenty-six per cent showed returns between \$1,000 and \$2,000, 45 per cent between nothing and \$1,000, and 9 per cent had losses.

The average size of farms reporting in 1928 was 284 acres, and average investment was \$15,417. No tenant farms were included. Gross receipts averaged \$2,608, and cash expenses \$1,518, leaving a net income of \$1,090. In addition to this, home-grown food products, valued at \$260 at farm prices, were used. The value of fuel and of house rent was not reported, nor was allowance made for the labor of the farmer and members of his family.

An increase of \$244 in inventory values was noted.

WOOL CROP OF 1929

WOOL SHORN IN THE UNITED STATES in 1929 is estimated to amount to 2,753,000 pounds more than the 1928 production, according to the Department of Agriculture. Total production this year is given as 301,866,000 pounds, compared with 299,113,000 pounds in 1928 and 281,914,000 pounds in 1927, and is the largest crop recorded since 1894. The number of sheep shorn this year is estimated at 39,948,000, compared with 38,364,000 in 1928 and 36,570,000 in 1927. The average weight per fleece was 7.6 pounds, compared with 7.8 pounds in 1928 and 7.7 pounds in 1927.

Most of the important sheep states showed increases in the number of sheep shorn. In the western group of states, where about 60 per cent of the wool is produced, the average weight per fleece decreased from 8 pounds in 1928 to 7.6 pounds in 1929, which accounts for most of the decrease in the United

States average, although there was some decrease in the North Central states.

The following table shows the estimated clip in the range states for 1929 and 1928:

State	1929	1928
Oklahoma	664,000	615,000
Texas	39,882,000	35,591,000
Montana	29,077,000	26,626,000
Idaho	17,829,000	17,885,000
Wyoming	24,200,000	26,488,000
Colorado	8,655,000	8,831,000
New Mexico	12,882,000	12,400,000
Arizona	5,784,000	5,760,000
Utah	19,764,000	22,072,000
Nevada	7,560,000	8,580,000
Washington	4,554,000	5,000,000
Oregon	18,849,000	20,332,000
California	25,192,000	23,800,000

MACHINERY FOR WORLD CENSUS PRACTICALLY COMPLETE

AFTER A TRIP to Central and South America, Leon M. Estabrook, director of the world farm census, announces that countries embracing 97 per cent of the land surface of the earth and 99 per cent of its total agricultural production have now given definite assurance of participation in the census of 1930. The only countries not visited by Mr. Estabrook since his appointment are Afghanistan, Persia, Bolivia, and some of the West African colonies, the governments of which, however, have promised co-operation.

Mexico Raises Import Duties

Import duties on a number of foodstuffs have been increased by the Mexican government, beginning August 1. Among the commodities on which the tariff has been raised are preserved meats, ham and bacon, lard, sausage, and meat extract. Advances range from 40 to 100 per cent.

THE CALENDAR

- August 26-29, 1929—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- August 31-September 7, 1929—National Swine Show, Indianapolis, Ind.
- September 12-15, 1929—Nevada State Live Stock Show, Elko, Nev.
- September 30-October 6, 1929—Annual Dairy Cattle Congress and National Belgian Horse Show, Waterloo, Iowa.
- October 12-19, 1929—Annual Convention of National Dairy Association, St. Louis, Mo.
- October 26-November 2, 1929—Pacific International Live Stock Exposition, Portland, Ore.
- November 1-8, 1929—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- November 9-13, 1929—California Live Stock and Baby Beef Show, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 11-14, 1929—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- November 16-23, 1929—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- November 30-December 7, 1929—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- November 30-December 7, 1929—Christmas Live Stock Show, Los Angeles, Cal.
- January 16-18, 1930—Thirty-third Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Denver, Colo.
- January 18-25, 1930—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- March 3-5, 1930—Annual Convention of Panhandle Live Stock Association, Amarillo, Tex.
- March 9-15, 1930—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

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AUGUST, 1929

Number 3

THE TARIFF BILL

ON JULY 22 the Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee went into executive session and began to rewrite the schedules in the Hawley tariff bill. Rumors are rife that many of the advances voted in the House amendments are to be eliminated, although Chairman Smoot has indicated that there will be increases as well as decreases.

Whatever the outcome, the cattlemen of the West can feel that they have put up a good fight. If the rates allowed are in accordance with the facts submitted, then we have nothing to fear. There is not an item in which we are interested—live cattle, dressed beef, canned beef, or hides—but that we now import substantial quantities. These commodities are clearly within the limits indicated by the President as to schedules needing revision, and are beyond doubt entitled to protection on a par with other commodities imported in quantity.

Cattle prices are now high, and production may be expected to increase to meet the demand. The duty placed on live cattle will determine whether our own growers can safely expand their operations, or whether Canada and Mexico shall do so and profit by our good market. This is of far greater importance than the question of immediate imports.

The duty on dressed beef will determine our measure of protection against imports of Argentine beef, in the event that the embargo on account of foot-and-mouth disease is lifted at some future date.

The duty on canned beef should be high enough to stop the rapid increase in the flow of canned beef from Argentina and other foreign countries into the United States.

Hides, kept on the free list for twenty years by a powerful lobby and by misrepresentations as to the effect a duty would have on the price of shoes, should be given protection against ruinous foreign imports. No fair basis can now be found for denying this protection, as importations are almost 50 per cent of the domestic output.

In the fight to secure the protection needed on all these items, western associations have acted as a unit. The representatives of the American National Live Stock Association have had able support in Washington from California, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, and Wyoming. In addition, practically every state association and many prominent individual stockmen have been active in other ways. The West has worked closely with the Corn Belt, and even on stocker and feeder cattle the views of grower and feeder have not been far apart.

In 1922, farm organizations generally went on record in favor of free hides, free leather, and free shoes, deceived into thinking that this would be to their benefit. Awake now to the fact that free hides (and consequently cheap ones) fail to result in cheap leather and cheap shoes, and alarmed at the depression in the cattle industry that followed the tariff act of 1922, while the well-protected sheep industry was expanding, practically every major farm organization has co-operated with us this year, not only on hides, but on the other items mentioned as well. The National Producers' Commission Company, the Central Co-operative Commission Company of St. Paul, and the Farmers' Union have had a joint tariff committee and have been well represented in Washington. The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Grange, and the National Co-operative Dairy Federation have all been very active. Therefore, if the products named are not given the necessary protection, it will not be from lack of effort or from lack of co-ordination of all farm, dairy, and range interests.

(As we go to press, word is received that the Senate Finance Committee has approved the House rates on cattle, sheep, swine, fresh, chilled, and frozen meats; also on wheat and corn. The rate on oats has been raised from 15 to 16 cents a bushel. The duty on raw wool has been restored to 31 cents, from the 34 cents imposed in the House bill. The hide schedule is yet to be dealt with.)

FARM BOARD IN ACTION

WITH THE APPOINTMENT of a representative for the wheat-farmers, the make-up of the Federal Farm Board is now complete. The naming of the last member was long delayed—owing, we understand, to difficulty in finding a man on whom all the divergent interests in the grain trade could unite. The board has the following composition:

Ex officio—Arthur M. Hyde, Secretary of Agriculture.

Representing general business—Alexander H. Legge, president of the International Harvester Company, Chicago, Illinois; chairman.

For the tobacco-growers—James C. Stone, president of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association, Lexington, Kentucky; vice-chairman.

For the live-stock industry—Cyrus B. Denman, president of the National Live Stock Producers' Association, Farmington, Missouri.

For the cotton-growers—Carl Williams, ex-president of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

For the fruit-growers—Charles C. Teague, president of the California Fruit Growers' Co-operative Marketing Association, Los Angeles, California.

For the dairy industry—William F. Schilling, president of the Twin City Milk Producers' Association, Northfield, Minnesota.

For the wheat-growers—Samuel R. McKelvie, publisher of the *Nebraska Farmer* and ex-governor of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Representing miscellaneous agricultural interests—Charles S. Wilson, president of the New York Horticultural Society and former agricultural commissioner of New York, Hall, New York.

The board has organized with Chris L. Christensen, head of the Division of Co-operative Marketing in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, as secretary.

This is a notable assembly of men. Each had the indorsement of a large number of bodies within the particular field for which he is to act as spokesman, and the selection as a whole has been greeted with well-nigh unanimous approval by the press of the country. Live-stock interests are to be congratulated on the choice of Mr. Denman. With his wide experience in the co-operative marketing movement and his proved ability, such matters connected with live stock as the board may be called upon to deal with probably could not have been placed in safer hands.

In the address with which President Hoover opened the sessions of the board at Washington on July 15, the fact was stressed that its fundamental purpose is to find solutions for such problems as closer adjustment of production to demand, and the creation of permanent marketing institutions, farmer-owned and farmer-controlled, which will give stability to the industry and effect necessary economies. This, said the President, cannot be accomplished overnight, but must be worked out gradually through

strengthening the foundations and the initiative which we already possess.

In view of the magnitude of the task with which it has to deal, affecting, directly or indirectly, the whole of our population, deliberation will characterize the movements of the board, declares Chairman Legge. The board, in his opinion, can function most successfully through existing organizations, and it will be its aim to develop direct contact with co-operative marketing groups and to assist in the development of others. It is planned as soon as possible to hold regional commodity meetings, wherever the need of such gatherings is indicated.

Word has been given out that the board, in making loans, will deal only with officials of co-operative marketing associations, and that consideration of applications must await formulation of definite policies and principles of action. In no case will loans be granted to individuals. The board will not attempt to displace private banking institutions, but will expect co-operatives to exhaust the lines of credit obtainable in the regular way, at reasonable rates, before asking for assistance. Co-operatives handling the same products in the same area must consolidate into one organization, in order to obtain aid in marketing their produce.

On July 26 the board held its initial conference in Chicago, at which leaders of co-operative associations in the grain industry were present. Here, as the first positive recommendation, the establishment of a \$20,000,000 grain-marketing corporation was suggested, the organization to be effected through the merger of farmer-owned grain pools, co-operatives, and elevator associations, which is to serve as an intermediary between the board and the farmers' groups.

From all of this it appears that the Federal Farm Board is to walk slowly and to feel its way. Costly errors, which it might be hard to undo, are to be avoided. Permanence and stability are to be the watchwords. Tremendous power has been placed in the hands of the new agency. Indications are that it is fully aware of its responsibilities. Its membership inspires confidence, and is a guarantee that the unprecedented funds of which it is the trustee will not be dissipated, and that no loans will be granted except where the credentials are clear and all the requirements have been met.

Much—indeed most—will depend upon the attitude of the farmers themselves. To reap any benefit from the board, they must organize. Every last man among them should belong to a local group, which in turn should consolidate into state or regional bodies, to be merged into one grand national commodity association that can represent the entire industry and speak in its name with the proper weight.

THE FARM SITUATION

ATENTION IS CALLED in another article in this issue to the rise in farm incomes in 1928. It shows an average net profit of \$1,334 for last year—an increase of \$44 over 1927, and the highest on record since the post-war depression. Today, with a sensational advance in wheat prices just as the farmer is ready to go to market, cash corn selling close to \$1 in Omaha, and cattle and hog prices climbing, the situation is still further improved.

It should not be assumed, however, that all is well in the Corn Belt. It will take more than one good year to enable farmers to steady their craft and stop all the leaks. The period of depression, with the resultant low purchasing power of the farm dollar, was too long continued to make a rapid recovery possible. Taxes are high, and out of proportion to taxes on city property. Especially is this true of the rougher and cheaper lands. There is a real need for readjustment of the tax burden. The banking situation has not cleared up in many areas, and banks are still closing, after struggling for years to clear their note-cases of frozen assets. Added losses due to such failures, tying-up of funds as the banks are liquidated, and stringency of credit resulting from these conditions, are all factors deterrent to a speedy restoration.

It is encouraging to note that diversified farming is leading the way in the come-back. While farmers who gambled on heavy feeders last fall paid for their folly, those who played the more conservative game of feeding light cattle, thus catering to consumer demand for light cuts, reaped the usual reward. Heavy cattle have always required a substantial margin to make the feeding operation profitable. Today, with the cheaper production costs attained in feeding light cattle, and with the high market price ruling for the gain made, a big margin is not needed. The greater safety of this modern feeding operation, providing at once a market for surplus grain and hay, a cheap method of maturing the annual pig crop profitably, and a sure way of keeping up the fertility of the soil, gives diversified farming a stronger impetus than ever.

The real test of conditions in the Corn Belt is the ability to sell a good farm at a reasonable price. Foreclosures have been all too plentiful, and loan and insurance companies are loaded up with farms. There seems to be no speculative buying, as those who in the past have been willing to speculate in farms are now busy helping turn the wheels in Wall Street. The farmer himself will provide the market for farm lands, but he must first have the opportunity to make some money. For the good of the whole country, let us hope that present favorable conditions may con-

tinue. Hasten the day when the percentage of farm tenancy will again be on the decrease, when foreclosures will be a rare instead of an all-too-frequent occurrence, and when real-estate mortgages will once more be considered as good as gold bonds! When that happy day comes we shall all be prosperous.

STATE CONTROL OF PUBLIC DOMAIN

ACHANGED OFFICIAL ATTITUDE with respect to the unappropriated public domain has been intimated by the new Secretary of the Interior. At a meeting of western governors and state representatives in Boise, Idaho, last month, Mr. Wilbur made the suggestion that surface rights to the public lands might well be turned over to such states as cared to assume the responsibility, the government to retain title to the lands, with control of underground minerals, as well as of the national parks and monuments. Such transfer, the secretary believes, would result in better administration and more efficient utilization than are possible at long range from headquarters in Washington.

To put this change into effect, both federal and state legislation would be necessary. As a preliminary step, specialists in the Interior Department have been instructed to prepare a survey, giving data on classification, administration, distribution, and revenue yield of the domain. This summary is to be available for study by Congress at the opening of the regular session in December, and for state legislatures which will meet next winter.

How many states will be inclined to take advantage of this proposed arrangement is a matter for conjecture. At stockmen's meetings of late years there has been considerable discussion of the question of public lands. Some form of control, with definite grazing allocations, has seemed preferable to the present haphazard, first-come-first-served policy, which, furthermore, deprives the states of a vast amount of taxable property within their confines. The American National Live Stock Association is on record as favoring a leasing system by the federal government, similar to that in force on national forests, and which would take cognizance of equities of stockmen now using the domain. These resolutions, however, have never been passed without dissenting votes. The leader of the dissenters has been the State of Wyoming, where conditions which are purely local have made both cattle- and sheepmen satisfied with the existing order of things. Other states have shown a lack of enthusiasm for the plan of federal regulation.

Dual management along the lines suggested by Secretary Wilbur may combine some of the advantages sought by those who have favored straight own-

ership by the states, with the guarantee against squandering of valuable resources which the government deems necessary. It is possible that the proposal may form the basis for a settlement of the public-land problem upon which all can unite, and thus serve to put out of existence a question that has been the cause of much vexation in the past.

THE CONSENT DECREE

THE ATMOSPHERE IS CLEARING around the famous Consent Decree. On May 20, it will be recalled, the Supreme Court of the United States denied the right of the California Canneries to intervene. This put the decree, suspended since 1925, back into force, with its requirement that the packers divest themselves of their stock-yard holdings and all interests in unrelated lines. A further development now is an order, entered on July 25 by Justice Bailey in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, continuing hearings on the decree until October 2, when the question of enforcement, modification, or annulment will be finally disposed of.

Last month THE PRODUCER voiced the impression that the attitude of the packers on the question of meat-retailing had become somewhat less unbending. This feeling is given added force by a statement issued by F. Edson White, president of Armour and Company, concerning the order of Justice Bailey. Mr. White says:

The court's order has cleared the legal status of the Packers' Consent Decree. The way is now open for the representations of those who seek consideration of the matter on its economic aspects. The restrictions placed upon the packers by the decree are not necessary to assure fair competition in preparing and distributing food products. On the contrary, these restrictions prevent the complete use of meat-packers' manufacturing and distributing organizations, and the result is an economic loss to the producers of live stock and the consumers of meat.

In view of the widespread demand of live-stock producers for abolition or modification of the decree, and in view, further, of the new conditions existing in the food business by reason of the growth of chain stores and other changes being effected in distributing methods, the court, in the near future, will be asked to give consideration to the making of such changes in the decree as the changed business conditions demand, and which will be of distinct benefit to the public.

As the demand of live-stock producers for modification of the decree, so far as we know, has been confined to the clause prohibiting the packers from engaging in the selling of meat at retail, it may be inferred from the second paragraph of the above statement that the changes which will be asked of the court will have to do with this phase.

If we are right in this, the packers may count on the united support of beef-producers in any attempt

they may make to have the decree modified. Packer-owned and operated retail stores is an economic evolution from the necessity of which it seems difficult to escape.

In line with the apparent implication in Mr. White's statement is this comment in the *National Provisioner*, official organ of the Institute of American Meat Packers, for July 27:

What was unusual at the time the decree was signed is today usual. Live-stock interests, for example, may be safeguarded by a revocation or modification of the restriction placed upon the packers by the decree. They recognize that, if packers are permitted to use their great economic organizations to lessen costs of food distribution generally, it will automatically lessen costs of meat distribution. This will be reflected, not only to the live-stock producer, but to the consumer as well.

The Consent Decree limits packers in the economical distribution of meats. This is contrary to the present trend toward the elimination of waste in distribution.

It is, of course, possible that producers hope too much from this reform. Other changes in our economic system have not always brought the blessings expected from them. Nevertheless, it is one of the things that seem pregnant with beneficial results, both to producer and to consumer, and, it appears to us, should be given a fair trial.

GOVERNMENT BEEF-GRADING

GRADING AND STAMPING OF BEEF by government inspectors, inaugurated as an experiment on May 1, 1927, and at first financed from congressional appropriations, was, as readers of THE PRODUCER will remember, put on a fee basis commencing July 1, 1928, since which time a payment of \$2 an hour has been collected from the dealer requesting the service. Official beef-graders are at present available at the eight markets of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, and Topeka. With two or three exceptions, all packing plants in these cities, operated under federal inspection, are using the service.

Until April 30, 1929, 89,968 carcasses and 144,909 wholesale cuts had been labeled. This is equivalent to 60,952,000 pounds of beef. "Despite the limitations of the service," says the Sixth Annual Report of the National Live Stock and Meat Board, "government beef-grading has steadily increased. A comparison of results during the past ten months with results one year ago in most cases shows substantial gains from month to month in quantities of beef graded and stamped. Marked increases were in evidence for the month of May." The greatest gains have been made at the larger markets, notably New York and Chicago. Retailers generally are more and more de-

manding government-stamped beef, and hotel supply houses and chain-store organizations are availing themselves of the service in increasing measure.

In addition to this government service, since August, 1927, private brands on the two top grades of beef have been in use by packers, similar to the brands employed on hams and bacon. Up to June 1, 1929, 166,471 carcasses had been marked with these private brands. "The packers," we read, "have co-operated vigorously in carrying forward the grading and stamping project. As a result, branded beef is available to retailers who may wish to order it, in practically all parts of the United States."

To cause this grading service to expand at a more rapid rate, and eventually to make its use universal throughout the United States, it seems necessary to insure it of adequate financial backing. For this purpose, Congress should again be appealed to for an appropriation that will take care of the cost. As long as the fee is to be paid out of the pocket of the private consumer, demand is liable to lag. It is government work, and as such should be combined with the regular government inspection at the packing plants.

THE FRUIT-FLY

WHENEVER AN OBNOXIOUS FOREIGN VISITOR, in the shape of weed or bird or insect, or a new disease, has acquired a foothold on our shores, it has been customary for those whose interests were threatened to belittle the danger and laugh off the seriousness of a condition that few took the trouble to visualize. The so-called English sparrow, the northern heel-fly, the corn-borer, and a host of other rapacious intruders were treated with disdain or indifference when they first made their presence felt. As the contamination spread, and the eyes of the people were opened to the ruin wrought, it was too late for extermination.

In the case of our most recent importation, the Mediterranean fruit-fly, our highly organized and efficient Department of Agriculture, by long and bitter experience taught the value of instant action, assumed control of the situation almost before anyone outside of the farm where the fellow had made his appearance knew what had happened. Quarantine restrictions were promptly established; Congress was appealed to, and immediately voted a large appropriation; a committee of experts was at once appointed to investigate and report on the amount of the infestation, and means of checking it.

That was last spring. The committee report is now available. From this we learn that the insect has spread with alarming rapidity; that the region infested now covers 34 per cent of the area of Florida and contains 72 per cent of the bearing citrus trees of

the state; that the income from the crops endangered reaches an annual total of \$60,000,000, with a capital investment of \$300,000,000; and that dependent industries represent a yearly income of \$52,000,000. "The permanence of the home and the adequate support of the families of 40 per cent of the rural farm population of Florida are threatened by the fly," says the report.

No compromise, or tolerant "living with" the enemy, is proposed. Nothing short of complete eradication will do, in the opinion of the committee. But such eradication, it is added, will require "vigorous effort, large additions to present forces, fearless action, maintenance of the full co-operation of Florida citizens, and ample funds promptly available."

Even with these things forthcoming, it is possible that the tenacity of the foe has been underestimated, and that the fruit-fly, like the corn-borer, may develop into one of those permanent vexations the depredations of which may at best be kept within bounds, but which cannot be stopped.

THE SEASON OF FAIRS

THIS IS THE SEASON OF FAIRS. From farm and ranch, what in the vernacular of the romanticist is called the "husbandman," leaving his chores behind for a day or two, wends his way (poetical for motors) to the more or less distant center where the fair is being held, there to rub elbows with his fellows, compare notes of past achievement and future aspirations, study the progress made in the various branches of his industry since the last show, and, incidentally, have a holiday and a good time.

The institution of this annual round-up is a significant one in American community life. Combining the characteristics of a stock show and general farm-products exposition with those of the market place, and all the miscellaneous features with which tradition has endowed the "fair," it carries its appeal to various sides in the human make-up, and to old and young alike, offering opportunities for the broadening of special knowledge, and for the formation or renewal of friendships, which are presented in few other ways. It is in contacts such as these that the crust is broken which incumbers our common clay—the more as the years roll on. On the other hand, it is in such surroundings that the growing generations receive impulses and inspiration for their life-work, learning while being entertained.

Everybody should make an attempt to escape, at least once a year, from the ruts and the daily grind in which we all are too liable to get stuck. For multitudes of farmers and their families—the women no less than the men—the state fair offers this chance for a brief vacation. Crank up!

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

ORGANIZATION FOR LIMITING PRODUCTION AND STANDARDIZING TYPE OF CATTLE

KIT CARSON, COLO., July 15, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

President Hoover's proposed farm legislation has been put upon the statute-books, and the farm-saving board has been appointed. With two of the members of this board I am well acquainted. They are high-class gentlemen, and I presume the other six are equally capable. But, no matter how intelligent and well qualified the personnel of the board may be, they will not in any way be able to save the farmer, the live-stock producer, the butcher, the baker, or the candlestick-maker, unless these help themselves.

For many years I have believed that an advisory council for agriculture (not exactly the kind we now have) would be of benefit to producers in the way of diffusing information, advice, and education. In the final analysis, however, producers must help themselves. If cattle-producers can secure an adequate tariff on cattle, beef, and hides, the government will have done about all that can be done for the cattle industry at the present time. There is other legislation I have in mind that would be helpful, but it would be almost impossible to secure it now.

The cattle business is in a very healthy condition today, and those who are not able to make money under present conditions had better retire. But the question now is: How long are these conditions going to remain with us?

There can be no question but that present prices of cattle will in time bring overproduction. If there is any way to head this overproduction off, we should get busy right now; for it is sure to come unless steps are taken to check it. In order to get the subject before cattle-producers for discussion, I am going to submit the following proposal; and I hope cattlemen will use the columns of THE PRODUCER freely to air it out and make counter-proposals, as it is a subject that needs immediate attention.

The cattle business commences with the man who produces the calf; and that is the point to begin with. Therefore, I suggest an organization of cowmen producing 200 head or more of high-grade beef-type calves each year. Those producing a smaller number should be allowed to join, if they wished to and could qualify. The object of this organization would be to hold down production, and to produce a uniform standard type of calves and yearlings for the beef trade, in order to produce a uniform standard grade of better beef.

If such an organization could be completed in 1930, I would suggest that every member be required to sign a contract that he would not in the next five or ten years increase his breeding herd above the number he had at the time of becoming a member; that he would use nothing but registered bulls; and that he would not sell for breeding purposes any heifer calves, yearling or two-year-old heifers during that

period (perhaps a better way would be to require the spaying of all heifer calves or yearlings); the member to be allowed to keep a sufficient number of open heifer calves or yearling heifers each year for replacement purposes.

As soon as possible, all calves and yearlings should be sold on grade. By doing this, it would be possible to sell our calves and yearlings to eastern feeder-buyers without their coming to see the cattle. The time is coming, and it is not far off, when our calves and yearlings will be sold by grades, and producers should encourage it.

I would suggest a fee of fifteen to twenty-five cents per head annually for each calf raised; this money to be used by the organization for expenses, advertising, and promoting the sale of members' calves and yearlings, and the general up-building of the live-stock industry in every way.

There can be no question but that an organization of this kind could do a lot of good, as the only way of being sure of a fair price for anything is to regulate production and standardize the product.

The main question about this whole scheme is: Can it be done, and how? An organization of this kind, I believe, would have to come through state associations. Something of this sort would tend to make an organization interesting to its members, as there would be a real laid-out object and work to perform. I do not believe it would be necessary to create any new organizations, as it could be done by revamping the state live-stock organizations and hooking them up with the American National Live Stock Association as the national head.

An organization of this kind would necessarily have to carry with it fines and penalties for violating any of the rules of the organization.

About the best illustration of what high prices and no control over production will do is the picture of the Burley Tobacco Co-operative Association of Kentucky, which is now out of business. Seven years ago, when it was organized, they had such a complete organization that the first few years they shot the price of tobacco so high that all the members, as well as those who were not members, throughout the tobacco-growing state turned nearly all their land into raising tobacco, producing such a surplus that they ruined themselves and put their organization out of business. Jim Stone, now vice-chairman of the new Federal Farm Board, was the founder and president of the organization.

The prune-growers of California offer another illustration. When they organized, about ten years ago, there was grown in California about 86,000 acres of prunes. The organization flourished for a few years, and then the effect of overproduction set in. At the end of ten years the prune acreage of California had expanded to about 182,000 acres, and the prune-growers found themselves in worse condition than when they organized.

The sheep population has increased about 25 per cent

in the last eight years. Such an increase in cattle would be disastrous.

No scheme of any kind—co-operative or by legislation, with government control or otherwise—that has for its purpose the raising or stabilizing of prices of farm products, will ever succeed over a period of years, unless it takes into consideration the regulation of production of the commodity which it is trying to benefit.

There is a great deal more that could be said on the above subject, but the plan I have briefly outlined is sufficient for the purpose of finding out whether the response it receives from cattle-growers would warrant further discussion.

C. E. COLLINS.

SPECIAL AGENTS TO HELP LOCATE MISSING CATTLE

ALLIANCE, NEB., July 18, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, in addition to the brand-inspection service maintained at all public markets, inaugurated a local protective service five years ago, has maintained it since that time, and will continue to do so as long as members of the association give it their stamp of approval by payment of their dues, the amount of which is based upon a sliding scale, according to number of cattle owned by each member. The duties of the special agent employed consist of driving and riding over the range territory, keeping track of the various herds, hearing complaints, if any, from cattlemen of cattle missing, tracing them up, and, if reasonable evidence is found upon which to base a belief that they were stolen, reporting his findings to the directing officer of the association, when the machinery of the law is started for apprehending the offender and instituting proper prosecution proceedings.

There is a prevailing belief, based upon nothing more than suspicion, that increased use of motor trucks, combined with good roads, seems to have made the thieving problem more acute all over the cattle country. Thus far it has been found, so far as relates to Nebraska, that such a belief has no basis other than suspicion aroused from imagination as to how easily it might be done. Several instances of late have occurred to prove the fallacy of such suspicions. One man reported the loss from his ranch of twenty-six or twenty-eight steers, which he firmly believed had been trucked to South Dakota and disposed of. Our special agent, after riding the range for a week or more, located them on a range twenty miles or more distant from the home ranch. Another man reported twenty-four head missing, which were believed to have been trucked to Wyoming or Colorado. Investigation at market points and places through which motor trucks would have to drive failed to confirm any such belief. After riding the range, a few of the cattle were found dead in a lake, and the others were accounted for in having strayed away. The thought of how easy it might be to truck them away to distant points frequently arouses unfounded fears. Should such situations in fact become a practice, our association is in a position to learn of it, and steps would promptly be taken for making the practice too costly for such offenders to continue the game.

Protective associations in Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, and Montana, by adopting methods similar to those practiced by the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association, as above outlined, could be of valuable assistance to cattlemen in their states.

The fact must be recognized that, since the World War period, action by the federal and state governments in the matter of so-called "law enforcement" relating to the liquor

situation has served to create a general feeling of suspicion that everybody is a crook. The moment that any personal property is missing, the first thought is that some thief stole it, without any attempt being made to start an investigation that possibly might reveal that it had been disposed of by some means other than theft.

At the present time it may truthfully be said that cattle-stealing on the ranges of western Nebraska is at the lowest ebb it has been for many years, and as long as members of the Nebraska Stock Growers' Association are willing to contribute for the expense of employing special agents to ride over the territory making their investigations, and to act promptly upon their finding, it is not likely that there will be any general revival of cattle-stealing.

The American National Live Stock Association can render a service to cattlemen by encouraging associations in other states in adopting similar methods.

F. M. BROOME,

Secretary, Nebraska Stock Growers' Association.

THINGS LOOK GOOD IN NEBRASKA SAND HILLS

GENOA, NEB., July 29, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

The country around Ainsworth, in the Sand Hill section of Nebraska, which I visited recently, is looking good. I was surprised to see the corn and wheat, which compared favorably with the crops raised at Genoa. The Stuart region, too, is looking fine. They have had several good showers there lately, and both pastures and the hay crop are in excellent condition. Cattle, however, are in only fair flesh, owing, I should judge, to the backward spring.

From a buying standpoint, my observation is that it is hard to get good weights in that neighborhood. For instance, you buy a string of cattle twenty-five or thirty miles out. The seller agrees to drive the animals to the railroad yards to be weighed. The fact is that they have good feed all the way in, and you would hardly know that they are out of pasture, as it is all a grass country. In the west it is different. As a rule, feed is pretty scarce around loading-yards.

Right now things are getting dry here, and we need rain badly. The hot weather of the last few days has hurt the corn in some places. Wheat is yielding from eighteen to twenty-six bushels per acre, which is not quite so good as expected.

C. T. MOORE.

SOUTHERN IDAHO PARCHED

GOODING, IDA., July 11, 1929.

TO THE PRODUCER:

This is the driest year that we have ever had on this project. Only little hay or grain will be raised. The winter was long and cold, with a deep snow, which, however, contained but little water. There are not many herds of beef cattle here now. Dairying and hog-raising are on the increase. There are many farm flocks. The wool and lambs are sold in a country pool.

C. A. LUTHER.

If your subscription has expired, please renew, and save interruption in delivery.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

DROP IN WHEAT ESTIMATE

SLUMPS IN CROP FORECASTS were caused by adverse weather conditions in June, excessive rains along the Atlantic seaboard and in the Middle West joining with heat, high winds, and hail damage in the southwestern states to depress the prospective winter-wheat yield by 40,000,000 bushels below the June estimate, according to the report of the Department of Agriculture issued July 11. Indicated winter-wheat returns now stand at 582,000,000 bushels, against 622,000,000 bushels early in June and a harvest of 579,000,000 bushels in 1928. Of spring wheat a production of 251,000,000 bushels is predicted, compared with 324,000,000 bushels last year. This would give an aggregate wheat yield of 833,000,000 bushels, against the 903,000,000 bushels harvested in 1928.

Lower yields than last season are the general rule in grain crops this summer, as will be seen from the below tabulation:

	July 1, 1929	1928 Harvest
Winter wheat (bu.)....	582,000,000	579,000,000
Spring wheat (bu.)....	251,000,000	324,000,000
All wheat (bu.).....	833,000,000	903,000,000
Rye (bu.)	42,000,000	54,800,000
Corn (bu.)	2,662,000,000	2,840,000,000
Oats (bu.)	1,247,000,000	1,450,000,000
Barley (bu.)	317,000,000	357,000,000
White potatoes (bu.)..	379,000,000	463,000,000
Sugar-beets (tons).....	7,600,000	7,000,000
Flaxseed (bu.)	19,900,000	19,300,000
Hay, tame (tons).....	99,000,000	93,000,000
Broom corn (tons).....	52,800,000	45,500,000

Reports from the western provinces of Canada speak of serious deterioration in the spring-wheat crop, which is estimated at not much more than half of last season's.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH RANGE PROBLEMS

APPPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL COMMITTEE of specialists from the various bureaus of the Department of Agriculture to consider range problems in connection with live stock has been announced. Among the matters to receive attention is protection of range lands in forest reservations from erosion and overgrazing. This work is under the Forest Service, with other bureaus co-operating. Prevention of erosion through control of run-off thus calls for co-operation with the Division of Agricultural Engineering. In the same way, the study of stock-poisoning by plants involves collaboration with the Bureau of Animal Industry. Similar problems arise in the management of unappropriated public lands, as well as privately owned lands.

E. W. Sheets, chief of the Animal Husbandry Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, will serve as chairman of the committee.

SECRETARY UPHOLDS OMAHA EXCHANGE

EXPULSION OF A MEMBER of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange for giving credit to non-members, in violation of the rules of the organization, has been upheld by the Department of Agriculture. The member in question had brought suit against the exchange, contending that the rule under which it acted involved matters of personal credit, to be determined by agreement between individuals, and that the action was contrary to the provisions of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act.

Acting Secretary of Agriculture R. W. Dunlap, in dismissing the suit, said:

"There is no provision of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, or any public policy, that precludes the organization of market agencies for mutual advantages and protection, for the promotion of their common trade interests, and for the facilitating of their business transactions with one another, and it would seem entirely reasonable for market agencies as members of the exchange . . . to adopt in advance rules for the extension of credit to fellow-members on the preferential basis of that membership, and to safeguard this extension of credit to non-members by the imposition of proper and reasonable conditions."

FIELD DAYS AT GREAT BASIN EXPERIMENT STATION

THE FOURTH BIENNIAL FIELD DAYS will be held at the Great Basin Range Experiment Station of the Forest Service near Ephraim, Utah, on August 16 and 17, 1929. Wool-growers, cattle-growers, and others interested in range-management problems are invited to attend this meeting. Opportunity will be had to review and discuss the progress of experimental work in range management to improve the native forage crop in artificial reseeding and in range protection against erosion and disturbances of stream-flow, and other matters of interest to range-users.

Previous field days were held in 1924, 1925, and 1927, with increasing interest in each meeting. Those interested in attending should communicate with C. L. Forsling, director of the Great Basin Experiment Station, Forest Service, Ephraim, Utah.

NEW VACCINE FOR SHIPPING FEVER

HEMORRHAGIC-SEPTICEMIA AGGRESSIN is a recently discovered protective agent against the disease known as hemorrhagic septicemia, which is so highly infectious among farm animals, particularly cattle and sheep. The Bureau of Animal Industry developed this aggressin. In a revised edition of Farmers' Bulletin 1018-F, "Hemorrhagic Septicemia, 'Shipping Fever' of Cattle," just published, the author, Henry J. Washburn, says:

"Numerous experimental animals were vaccinated with this material, and subsequently were given a severe artificial exposure, together with some unvaccinated control animals. In these experiments all the vaccinated animals remained healthy, while the unvaccinated ones developed fatal hemorrhagic-septicemia infections. This aggressin is a germ-free, sterile product. It is now manufactured under commercial conditions, and is proving to be quite as efficacious in practice as it has proved experimentally."

The disease is popularly known as "shipping fever" of cattle. The bulletin describes the bacterium causing the disease, as well as the symptoms and anatomical changes produced, and gives suggestions for diagnosis and for distinguishing the disease from other malignant maladies. It also gives directions for prevention, and for the care of animals and premises during and after outbreaks of the disease. No effective medicinal treatment for infected animals is known. If the presence of the disease is suspected, the owner should call a competent veterinarian, who will advise as to protective measures and preventive treatment.

The bulletin may be obtained free on application to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

BIG GAME ON NATIONAL FORESTS

SLIGHT INCREASES in the number of most big-game animals inhabiting the national forests are recorded in the returns for the calendar year 1928, recently published by the Forest Service. A gratifying addition of almost 11 per cent to the small herds of antelopes found on the forests is shown, and a minor increase is noted in the number of grizzly bears—another species threatened with extinction. The grizzlies are now practically confined to the forests of Alaska, where, for the purposes of this enumeration, the closely related Alaskan brown bear has been classified with the grizzlies. Outside of Alaska, only 947 grizzlies were counted in 1928. Steps should be taken to safeguard this magnificent animal from complete extermination.

The following table presents numbers of big-game animals seen on the national forests for the two years 1928 and 1927:

	1928	1927
Antelopes	8,494	7,665
Bears—		
Black or brown.....	52,231	51,017
Grizzlies	3,447	3,380
Caribou	23	35
Deer	738,003	700,586
Elk	78,218	74,179
Moose	6,971	7,950
Mountain goats	19,298	19,334
Mountain sheep	13,824	13,248

New Zealand Meat Exports to United States

Total quantities of frozen meat shipped from New Zealand to the United States for the year ending November 30, 1928, were as follows: 134,944 quarters of beef, 9,255 carcasses of mutton, 32,514 carcasses of lamb, 51,818 bags of boneless beef, 1,556 sides of veal, and 1,343 bags of boneless veal.

Argentine Wheat and Corn Production

An official estimate places the wheat production of Argentina for the season 1928-29 at 307,358,000 bushels—an increase of 28.5 per cent over the large harvest of the preceding year. Corn, on the other hand, shows a decrease, due to the long-continued drought during the growing season; the forecast being for a yield of 231,719,000 bushels, or a decrease of 24.2 per cent from the previous year.



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THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN JULY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., August 1, 1929.

CRACKING PRICES has been a lively outdoor sport at the cattle market. Not that values have lacked resiliency, or that the game has been played one way, as on every restricted run reaction has been both prompt and substantial. However, the buying side scored with honors toward the end of July, when every type of steer, except a few specialties, declined 50 cents to \$1.50 per cwt. from the previous high point, and intermediate grades of butcher cattle charted the same course. A run of southwestern grassers relieved stringency in cheap-beef supply, which had been responsible for prolonged and relatively high prices of bovine mediocrity and trash. This widened the spread between common and high-grade steers, the former selling as low as \$9.50, while choice heavy bullocks reached \$16.75 in an effort to attain the \$17 goal, frustrated by a liberal run of "pretty good" steers dislodged by an advancing corn market.

Heavy Run Depresses Cattle Prices

July cattle receipts around the market circle were somewhat heavier than last year, in a numerical sense, and probably also with respect to tonnage, as the bulge in corn prices started a run of 1,000- to 1,250-pound cattle that otherwise would have stuck to the feed-box another thirty to sixty days. Many feeders, faced with necessity for buying corn, or unable to buy it close by, took the alternative of ordering cars. Many unloaded owing to flies, and others because distrustful of mar-

ket actions. The result was that an excessive supply reached the ten major markets, the big run showing up during the fourth week, with 186,000 head, compared with 148,000 during the corresponding week of 1928. Supply was well absorbed until the middle of that week, when, between swelling supply and a torrid spell all over the East, prices collapsed. Beef men, detecting an accumulation on the hooks, frantically signaled stock-yard cattle-buyers to desist, the market atmosphere changing overnight. For an exhibition of timidity in the superlative degree, visualize the beef-house man. When his wares move into distributive channels freely, and he is able to send a sales-sheet covered with plus profits into the front office, his rampant optimism exceeds that of a political campaign manager. Cattle-buyers, although admonished to caution in the matter of prices, are instructed to fill their orders, which is tantamount to removing a leash under which every cattle-buyer chafes. Cattle prices go skyward under this stimulus, the country responds by ordering cars, and then something usually happens. It may be a run of shad up the Delaware, a strike in New England, a hot spell in New York, or a threat of war between Borrovinia and Grabovia; but the result is identical. A few carcasses gather on the hang-rail, the beef man throws a fit, cattle-buyers are called in, beef figures minus profit, and the cattle market goes "blooey." Running true to form, the country shuts off supply, the hang-rail is cleared of beef, and another violent price upturn ensues.

Relative Values Upset by Shortages

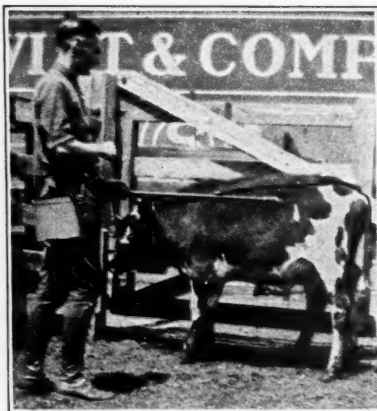
Such, at least, has been the course of the cattle market recently, although seasonal adjustment of values has been in evidence meanwhile. Killers have not begrudged money paid for steers selling anywhere from \$16 to \$16.75, but have resorted to somewhat strenuous effort to buy middle and cheap grades somewhere in line with beef merit. On short cattle runs, when killers are under the necessity of buying for numbers, relative values are always upset, plain heavy cattle are substituted for the better grades, and low dressers get out of their class. Under scarcity conditions, a canning cow becomes a cutter, and a cutter a beef cow; but at the first opportunity killers assert themselves. These factors explain, partly at least, why cattle values frequently change \$1 per cwt. in a few days; and the more violently the pendulum swings, the farther it goes in either direction.

Grassers Slow in Turning Up

Grass cattle showed up late this year; in fact, the usual April and May delegation from the "coast" country failed to materialize, prolonging prosperity in cheap-steer and butcher-cattle circles. In July a run of \$10 to \$11 grassers from Texas and Oklahoma effected an overnight change in market conditions, the whole butcher market slumping about \$1 per cwt., with the exception of \$6 to \$7.50 cows, and prime yearling heifers selling at \$14.50 to \$15.25 per cwt. The rise in corn adversely influenced steers selling anywhere from \$13.50 to \$15.75, as they comprised the bulk of the offering. A seasonal grist of yearling steers and heifers selling at \$13.50 to \$15 was also involved, feeders jettisoning half-fat yearlings as though apprehensive of disappearance of beef from the American diet scheme. In fact, what happened on the fat-cattle market during July was in no small measure indicative of the incurable imbecility of humanity, in private life or in the halls of legislation. Usually evils ascribed to the market may be traced directly to the sphere of production.

Market Remains Comparatively High

Condoning this tendency to eccentricity, it has not been a reprehensible fat-cattle market. Contrast prices with quota-



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This device is not unwieldy but easy to carry and use; recommended for stock growers, stock yards, packers; especially useful around chutes, loading pens, or at dipping time.

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tions of the corresponding period of 1926, and the fact will be sensed that everything wearing a hide is on a lofty valuation basis. At the middle of July a drove of 1,650-pound Hereford bullocks realized \$273 per head in Chicago; three years back \$160 would have made an identical purchase. Bovine trash sold high until well along in the season, when prices attracted grassers by the thousand, putting a crimp in the price-list. The final ten-day period of July literally glutted all markets, with medium and common cattle selling anywhere from \$10 to \$14 per cwt., although it must be admitted that killers did not get much with beef value below \$12.50. They bought steers selling at \$15.75 to \$16.75 without haggling, but merit was needed to attain this altitude, big 1,700-pound steers of the lobster type, that would have been worth \$16 at the high time, dropping to \$14.75 on the last round. Acres of 900- to 1,000-pound steers had to sell at \$13 to \$13.50 on the break, that had been worth \$14 to \$14.75 two weeks previously. Much of this was undoubtedly due to the bulge in corn, which started a run of merely warmed-up steers prematurely, holders being either unable to buy corn or refusing to feed it on a dollar-per-bushel basis.

Wider Spreads May Be Looked For

The break is variously construed by the trade. The popular opinion is that finished steers will work still higher, but that middle grades will not attain 1928 altitudes. It is logical to expect wider spreads, as feeders were responsible for what happened last August and September, when all sense of intrinsic values was lost in a scramble between feeders for fleshy cattle and killers for beef, creating an abnormal condition that insured rectification when the buying furore subsided, as such furores always do.

Hogs in Abrupt Decline

Hog trade ran into sharp depreciation late in July. Packing sows and heavy butchers were hit hardest. The spread widened, 350-pound butchers selling down to \$10.35, while choice light hogs were eligible to \$12. At the inception of August, indications were that the average cost line, which has been considerably above that of the corresponding period of 1928, would cross and go below. The expected June run did not materialize until July, when the market was congested with big butcher hogs weighing 250 to 350 pounds; also a raft of packing sows, that market declining to a \$9 to \$9.50 basis. Prior to the break, light hogs sold up to \$12.40, and few heavy butchers went below \$11.25; but the load proved excessively heavy subsequently, especially with heavy lard and meat stocks. Last August, it will be remembered, prices went skyward, that bull movement culminating in the September pinnacle, followed by a crash; the probability being that the course of 1928 events during the latter half of the year will be reversed on this occasion. Belated appearance of a mob of overweight hogs was a disagreeable surprise to packing interests, as it effectively blocked a possible July and August bull campaign, which would have facilitated disposal of meat and lard stocks. The corn advance did not liberate the July run of big hogs, as they were overweight in June, or earlier, holding them indicating bad judgment.

Lambs Share in Depreciation

Live muttons were involved in the late July break, the low spot putting best native lambs down to \$13.25 and westerns to \$13.50. Early in June the lamb top was \$17, indicating a decline of \$3.50 per cwt. from top to bottom. On the last round the market firmed up, but solely on account of light receipts, the break curtailing loading in the country. Early in July the top was \$15.25, advancing to \$15.50, then slumping to

\$13.50. Fat sheep did not get the full decline, but late in July \$6.50 bought the best light ewes, heavy ewes selling down to \$4.50. Feeding-lamb prices were well sustained until late in the month, when a 25-cent decline occurred. Previously as high as \$14 had been paid for light lambs on country account, but \$13.75 was the practical top, the close being on a \$13 to \$13.50 basis, or a parity with fat lambs. Hot weather affected lamb consumption adversely; native lambs went to eastern markets in considerable numbers, and western range lambs were two weeks late in showing up, swelling receipts at an inopportune moment.

ABUNDANCE OF CHEAP STEERS HAMMERS DOWN PRICES

J. E. P.

UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF JULY, low-grade beef was actually scarce, realizing war prices; but within a week this condition was effectively relieved by a run of southwestern grassers that sent prices down a well-greased set of skids. Steers of the "yellow-hammer" type, worth \$12 to \$12.50 at the high time in May, showed up so numerous during the latter half of July that values were revised downward to a \$9 to \$9.75 basis. From every nook and cranny where such cattle were available in killer condition came a veritable swarm, killers forwarding them from St. Louis and other markets to Chicago, where they were effectively used to hammer values

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of cheap native steers, cows, and heifers. A few weeks previously these types of cattle had been prize packages, but, with seasonal change in supply, the market went off \$1 to \$1.50 per cwt., and, in spots, more, even the usually stable canner and cutter market joining the procession.

Until the country snuggles into winter quarters, cheap beef will be reasonably abundant, as current and prospective prices furnish incentive for gathering anything in the shape of bovine mediocrity and trash susceptible of conversion into edible product. Good beef is costly, and while the "blue ribbon" variety may be an economic purchase, the masses are trying other grades. Early winter invariably prompts a clean-up of common cattle in the north country, especially the dairy region, where the nondescript steer appears to flourish. Once the clean-up is completed, common beef again asserts its sway, and buyers ride market alleys in quest of trash.

It would seem that such prices as have been paid for bovine trash since 1926 would speedily exhaust available supply, but a new crop comes along each year. Diminution has undoubtedly been effected, but, like the scriptural poor, the bad steer will always be with us. At that, he is even now realizing more per pound than were fat bullocks three years back.

TO COMMAND TOP PRICES, HEAVY CATTLE MUST HAVE QUALITY

J. E. P.

BIG CATTLE have done some unexpected market stunts recently. Endowed with quality and condition, they have been eligible to \$16 to \$16.75 per cwt.; but the other types have frequently furnished their owners keen disappointment, prices varying \$1 per cwt., or more, within a few days. On the last day of July a Wyoming man reached Chicago with six loads of mammoth bullocks, some weighing a ton or more. Such cattle could have been advantageously disposed of on several high spots during the past two years, but had been held in expectation of more money. Carrying them past the 1,200-pound stage was an error, as it made their bad points conspicuous. Some 1,500-pound cattle sold late in July at \$16.50 to \$16.75; others, of approximately the same weight,

had to be content with \$14.75 to \$15, and were not popular on that basis. At the extreme high spot the same cattle would have been eligible to \$15.75 to \$16, but the owners doubtless concluded that it was good policy to hold, on the theory that last year's \$18 market would repeat. What are known as plain and rough heavy cattle would have made smooth bullocks, had they gone to the butcher at the 1,000-pound stage.

The trade needs a few big steers, but they must be good. Beef-makers carrying cattle lacking quality into extreme weight must accept the hazard inseparable from the operation. Holding an animal until it weighs anywhere from 1,600 pounds to a ton—and a few stick to that practice—is little short of reprehensible.

DRY CONDITIONS IN NORTHWEST SEND CATTLE TO MARKET

J. E. P.

"DRY IN SPOTS" is the opinion of those who have traversed the northwestern grazing area. A run of distressed cattle during July was not numerous, but indicative of feed conditions in the territory whence they came. Had that territory possessed the bovine population of four or five years back, the markets would have been crowded with distressed stock. As it was, they were quickly absorbed by feeders, at prices ranging from \$9.50 to \$11 per cwt.

What the influence of dry weather will be on the season's cattle-gathering remains to be determined. Logically, more cattle will go aboard the cars, as winter feed is scarce in many localities. More aged cows may be forced out than would have been the case had physical conditions been more favorable, and it is probable that the yearling delegation will be swelled. A considerable number of calves have been acquired on feeder account in Montana, at prices ranging from \$40 to \$50 per head—a few up to \$52.50. Yearlings could be bought late in July at \$11.25 to \$11.50, with a twelve-hour stand.

Early estimates on the season's cattle-gathering in Montana focused around 20 per cent less than last year. The dry spell may dislodge more. Some cattle are fat, especially where they were well wintered. The movement will begin late in August, reaching maximum volume during September and October. It will carry the smallest percentage of mature steers on record.

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., August 3, 1929.

CATTLE RECEIPTS held up well at Denver during the month, and the market was fairly active from day to day, especially on fed stock. The movement of such stock was not heavy, but a fair supply came daily. Grass stock came in increasing numbers as the month advanced, and these moved slowly, as they usually do when they first make their appearance, because of poor killing quality. Shortage of pastures, due to dry weather in the country, cut down the demand for stock cattle somewhat, and the market in this division was quiet throughout the month.

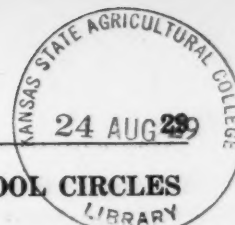
Good-quality steers were selling early in July at \$13 to \$14.75. These prices were well maintained throughout the month, and on several occasions during the middle and latter part of July choice, well-finished steers and yearlings sold up to \$15. Fed cows were bringing \$11 to \$11.75 early in the month, but very few were coming at the close. Grass cows

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sold mostly at \$8.50 to \$9.25, with choice kinds in odd lots up to \$10 at the close of the month. Fed heifers were bringing \$13 to \$14 early in July, whereas at the close about the same prices were prevailing. During the middle of the month, choice-quality heifers sold up to \$14.40. Grass heifers were selling around \$10 to \$10.50 for fair to good grades at the close of July. Feeder cattle were bringing around \$11 to \$12.50 early in July, and at the close of the month the same grades were selling around \$11 to \$12.

Indications point to a fairly active trade and a good demand for all classes of cattle during the next few months. The prospects for a good demand for feeder cattle this fall are very bright. Reports from the Corn Belt district are to the effect that a very good corn crop is in sight, and this should result in a good demand for all feeder cattle available on the Denver market. Eastern feeder-buyers have formed a habit of coming to Denver for their feed-lot supplies in recent years, and the demand here during the coming fall season is expected to be better than ever.

Hogs.—Hog trade was active throughout the month, with a strong demand from day to day and steadily advancing prices. At the close of June, good-quality hogs were selling around \$11 for tops. By the middle of the month the top had gone to \$11.90, while on July 25 extreme top was \$12.10, being the highest price paid here in many months.

Sheep.—Sheep supply was comparatively light at Denver during the month of July, due to the fact that the supply available in Idaho and other western range states was lighter than usual. The demand on the Denver market was very good from day to day, but late in the month a sharp decline was registered, due to declines at all eastern markets.

Fat lambs were selling around \$13.25 to \$13.75 at the beginning of the month, and by the 15th had gone to \$14.10, with numerous sales up to \$14.25. Declines, however, during the closing days of the month brought tops down to \$13. Ewes were selling early in July at \$6.50 to \$7 for choice grades. By the middle of the month tops were selling at \$6.50, and this price continued through to the end of the month. Feeder lambs that were selling around \$12.50 to \$12.75 early in July were quoted at \$12.50 to \$13 at the close of the month, although very few feeder lambs are now coming to market.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES showing prices on the principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on August 1, 1929, compared with July 1, 1929, and July 30, 1928:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	Aug. 1, 1929	July 1, 1929	July 30, 1928
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.).....	\$15.50-16.75	\$15.00-15.75	\$15.75-16.35
Good	13.25-15.75	14.00-15.25	14.00-15.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down).....	15.50-16.50	14.75-15.75	16.00-16.75
Good	13.00-15.50	13.50-14.75	14.00-16.00
Medium (800 lbs. up).....	11.25-13.00	12.25-13.50	11.75-14.00
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice.....	12.75-16.00	13.25-15.50	14.00-16.75
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	10.50-14.75	10.50-14.75	11.25-16.60
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	8.50-12.00	8.50-12.00	9.10-12.50
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up).....	11.50-13.00	12.50-13.50	11.75-13.50
Common to Medium.....	9.25-11.50	9.75-12.25	9.50-11.75
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down).....	11.50-12.75	12.25-13.50	11.75-13.50
Common to Medium.....	9.00-11.50	9.75-12.25	9.50-11.75
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.).....	11.15-12.25	10.75-11.40	10.25-11.25
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (84 to 92 lbs.).....	11.25-13.85	12.50-15.00	12.50-15.25

CONFIDENCE RETURNING TO WOOL CIRCLES

J. E. P.

A MEASURE OF OPTIMISM developed in wool circles early in August. At least with respect to tone, the market showed a pick-up disposition. Top-makers, who had been exerting strenuous effort to break the market for fine wools to 80 cents, desisted, finding difficulty in buying at less than 85 cents. An impression became grounded that further depreciation would be inimical to all interests, and that prices had reached bottom. Foreign markets have steadied, although no rally has occurred in London since the last series of sales.

That current prices more than discount increased domestic production is an accepted fact. Total wool production in the United States for 1929 is estimated at 301,866,000 pounds—an increase of nine-tenths of one per cent over 1928, and comparing with 281,914,000 pounds in 1927. It is also the largest domestic clip since 1894.

Optimism is in evidence, not only in the wool market, but in manufacturing circles. Manufacturers and top-makers are looking forward to better business, on the theory that the market has touched the bottom of the present price cycle. Fine wools, which have occupied a back seat, are acquiring popularity, and, with lower qualities holding firm, it is logical to

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assume that the market is in healthier position, not only with respect to specialties, but all through the trade. Current demand is not only for medium wools, but for all grades up to, and including, half-bloods. Medium wools are considered in better position than fine grades, as they are relatively scarce. However, manufacturers cannot neglect fine wools, as medium qualities are absorbed. All this goes to make a strong market.

Now that more satisfactory trading conditions have been established, an effort will be made to mark up prices. Broader inquiry may make this possible. Manufacturers are making offers which at least indicate more appreciation of values in buying circles.

Territory wools have firmed on an expanding movement. Half-blood and three-eighths have had the call. Once fairly stabilized, more business will be transacted, as there will be less disposition on the part of manufacturers to keep on a hand-to-mouth basis. There has been little change in the western situation, except a pronounced disposition to consign clips to eastern concentration points. In Montana, half-blood wools have been acquired at 32 to 33 cents, an occasional clip getting more money. In Texas, a movement to consign wools against fairly good cash advances is noted. Nevada is reported well cleaned up, a similar condition existing in Utah. In Oregon and Wyoming the movement has been somewhat desultory, and in the Triangle considerable wool is still unsold.

Prompt delivery was stipulated on sales made around August 1 at eastern markets, indicating replenishment need. Fine territory combing wool was quoted at 96 cents, Boston, clean basis; French combing, at 92 to 93 cents; half-blood, at 93 to 95 cents; three-eighths blood, at 90 cents; and quarter-blood, at 79 to 80 cents.

CONSUMPTION, NOT PRODUCTION, LAMB-GROWER'S PROBLEM

J. E. P.

A DECLINE OF \$3 PER CWT. in fat lambs during June and July has given the trade serious concern. July opened promisingly, with top lambs on a \$15.50 basis at Chicago; but by the end of the month \$13.50 was high, and the dressed mar-

ket had declined \$3 to \$4 per cwt., compared with the booming trade of the second week of July, when, on short runs, killers bought for numbers, actually taking the feeder end of the crop. Possibly hot weather may account for part of the break, as legs are always slow sale during torrid spells; but the trade has a hunch that lamb production has reached a stage where caution is advisable. The industry has been recuperating during several profitable years, and it is axiomatic that production follows price. Danger of excessive production exists, not in the West, but east of the Missouri, where farm-flock expansion has been rapid. Nothing but a short western lamb crop saved the day this year. Jersey City and other eastern markets have been full of native lambs, St. Louis has had a sufficient increase to show that Missouri is "getting back," and apprehension exists that by the time the native-lamb crop is cleaned up next fall the market will have been put over a series of bumps. A substantial increase in marketing from the northern Spring Wheat Belt is due next fall, and the whole country is credited with more natives than is generally expected. It is the native crop that is responsible for uncertainty.

There is evidence that maturing of ewe lambs has reached a point where lower prices impend. The Corn Belt is definitely "off" yearling ewes at recent prices. Probably a considerable number could be absorbed at a lower range—how much lower cannot be determined until a market is established, when and if. The trade knows that a considerable number of young ewes are pressing on the market, as that game has been profitable in recent years. It must be remembered that every western yearling ewe transferred to the farm means added competition for western growers for a few years to come, as it will raise several lambs before it eventually goes to the butcher. It might be well for the western grower if a considerable percentage of the yearling ewes now offered went direct to the shambles instead of into farmers' hands.

Breaks in wool and lamb prices may exert a healthy influence by diverting attention to cattle. Evidently the present problem of the industry is consumption rather than production.

PRESERVATION OF EWE LAMBS FOR BREEDING

J. E. P.

YEARLING-EWE SPECULATORS have recently had a bump that was coming to them. Carrying ewe lambs into the yearling stage for breeding purposes was profitable for several years, but production inevitably follows price. Imitation is unrestrainable, and any market may become saturated. Present indications are that the West has accumulated a surplus of this class of stock, and that, failing expansion of farm demand, it will be necessary to send that surplus to the butcher.

The high ewe market of last year showed signs of distress toward the end of the season, but during the winter a soaring lamb market revived interest in breeding stock. With a drooping wool market, coupled with a \$3 decline in fat lambs during June and July, farmers lost interest in wool and lamb production. Many still in that mood sensed certainty of a lower investment basis, concluding to wait. When initial consignments of western yearling ewes reached feeding stations near Chicago, a few were placed at \$12.50 to \$12.75, whereupon the market went stagnant. Bids \$1 to \$2 per cwt. lower created a deadlock, and at midsummer the trade was comatose. To what extent farm demand for breeding stock will absorb an increasing supply of yearling ewes, progress of the season will develop; but unless the farmer changes his attitude, lower

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prices are inevitable, and every yearling ewe that goes into a farmer's hands for breeding purposes means competition with western production for several succeeding years. As long as the farmer confines his investment to aged western females, the western grower is reasonably safe, as they seldom raise more than one crop of lambs—frequently not that.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-six markets for the month of June, 1929, compared with June, 1928, and for the six months ending June, 1929 and 1928:

RECEIPTS

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*.....	971,397	1,056,963	6,123,057	6,647,379
Calves.....	472,145	501,195	2,992,205	3,145,876
Hogs.....	3,229,604	3,547,565	22,510,467	25,965,073
Sheep.....	1,749,257	1,912,973	10,873,549	10,351,152

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*.....	387,634	447,305	2,487,575	2,769,141
Calves.....	140,478	146,534	828,541	881,242
Hogs.....	1,148,855	1,299,362	8,450,580	9,399,703
Sheep.....	739,983	904,360	4,986,084	4,815,193

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*.....	156,823	164,478	1,098,141	1,207,241
Calves.....	18,680	19,062	118,782	114,609
Hogs.....	53,165	55,545	350,534	417,346
Sheep.....	225,762	277,995	1,077,456	929,324

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Cattle*.....	567,315	601,645	3,567,951	3,784,657
Calves.....	333,640	361,300	2,160,681	2,292,574
Hogs.....	2,080,535	2,268,926	14,040,192	16,558,084
Sheep.....	1,019,589	1,020,332	5,882,723	5,538,857

*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

FEEDSTUFFS

COTTONSEED CAKE AND MEAL, f. o. b. Texas points, on August 3 sold at \$41 per ton. On August 1 hay prices at the Kansas City market were: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$21.50 to \$22; No. 2 extra leafy, \$20 to \$21; No. 1, \$18.50 to \$19.50; No. 2 leafy, \$16.50 to \$18; No. 2, \$14 to \$16; No. 3 leafy, \$12 to \$13.50; No. 3, \$10 to \$11.50; sample, \$8 to \$9.50; prairie—No. 1, \$9.50 to \$10; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$7 to \$8; sample, \$5.50 to \$6.50; timothy, new crop—No. 1, \$12.50 to \$13.50; No. 2, \$11 to \$12; No. 3, \$9.50 to \$10.50; sample, \$7 to \$9; timothy clover-mixed—No. 1, \$12 to \$13.50; No. 2, \$10 to \$11.50; No. 3, \$8 to \$9.50.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on July 1, 1929, as compared with July 1, 1928, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	July 1, 1929	July 1, 1928	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	35,731,000	17,256,000	27,599,000
Cured beef*.....	16,244,000	14,982,000	21,532,000
Lamb and mutton.....	3,044,000	1,947,000	1,926,000
Frozen pork.....	247,664,000	285,628,000	196,455,000
Dry salt pork*.....	163,948,000	174,906,000	174,201,000
Pickled pork*.....	433,336,000	454,826,000	423,966,000
Miscellaneous.....	80,676,000	63,941,000	65,462,000
Totals.....	980,643,000	1,013,486,000	911,141,000
Lard.....	200,104,000	214,479,000	156,153,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

HIDE MARKET IN DEADLOCK

J. E. P.

WHAT AMOUNTED TO A DEADLOCK developed in the hide market around August 1. Packers and other holders refused to make concessions, indications pointing to a continuance of this condition. Spread native steers reached 20 cents previously, heavy native steers and cows selling at 18 cents flat. Heavy Texas and butt-branded steers sold at 17½



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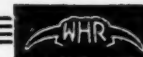
have always been in favor with the range men. You can depend upon them to produce quality cattle.

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predominating among both the cows and bulls in the breeding herd, WHR becomes more than ever a reliable source of supply for both the cattleman and the breeder.

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cents; light native cows were priced at 17 to 17½ cents, and Colorado steers at 16 cents. Independent packer, all-weight, native stock sold at 17 cents, and branded at 15½ cents. Country hides were nominally steady on a 12½-cent basis, all-weight merchandise. Cows and steers in the 60-pound-and-up selection were priced at 12 to 12½ cents. Bulls were valued at 9½ to 10 cents.

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

Wednesday, July 31, 1929

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

STEERS (700 lbs. up):	CHICAGO	BOSTON	NEW YORK
Choice	\$23.50-24.00	\$23.50-24.50	\$23.50-25.00
Good	22.00-23.50	22.50-23.50	22.50-24.00
STEERS (500 to 700 lbs.):			
Choice	23.50-24.50		23.50-25.00
Good	22.50-23.50		22.00-24.00
YEARLING STEERS (300 to 550 lbs.):			
Choice	23.50-24.50		23.50-25.50
Good	22.00-23.50		22.00-24.50
COWS:			
Good	17.00-18.00	18.00-18.50	19.00-20.00
VEALERS:			
Choice	25.00-26.00	25.00-26.00	26.00-28.00
Good	23.00-25.00	23.00-25.00	24.00-26.00
CALVES:			
Choice			22.00-25.00
Good	18.00-20.00	20.00-21.00	21.00-23.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

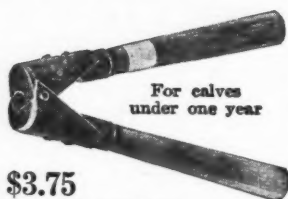
LAMBS (38 lbs. down):			
Choice	\$27.00-28.00	\$26.00-27.00	\$25.00-27.00
Good	26.00-27.00	25.00-26.00	24.00-26.00
LAMBS (39 to 45 lbs.):			
Choice	27.00-28.00	26.00-27.00	24.00-27.00
Good	26.00-27.00	25.00-26.00	22.00-25.00

DEHORNING Made Quick and Clean with the WILL C. BARNES D'HORNER

CUPS out the horn buttons, so that stubs do not grow. Quick and convenient to use, and least painful to the calf.

Cutting blades are tempered tool steel. Light, but sturdy. More in use than all other types combined.

Money back if not satisfactory. Send a check for one today.



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TRADE REVIEW

FOREIGN TRADE DURING LAST FISCAL YEAR

THE FISCAL YEAR 1928-29 closed with a favorable trade balance for the United States of \$1,087,053,000—the largest since 1921-22. Among the leading exports, automotive products moved abroad in unprecedented volume last year, and shipments of electrical apparatus, agricultural implements, coal, and petroleum reached a high level. Some gain was noted in cotton, and in foodstuffs other than grains, but wheat and rye recorded declines. Total exports exceeded those of any year since 1920-21, while imports were the heaviest since 1919-20. Complete figures are given below for the month of June and the twelve months ending June, 1929 and 1928:

	June		Twelve Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Exports	\$397,000,000	\$388,661,000	\$5,377,510,000	\$4,877,071,000
Imports	352,000,000	317,249,000	4,290,457,000	4,147,500,000
Excess of exports	\$ 45,000,000	\$ 71,412,000	\$1,087,053,000	\$ 729,571,000

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, meat products, and animal fats from the United States for the month of June and the six months ending June, 1929, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Beef, fresh	232,774	137,769	1,509,192	998,459
Beef, pickled	998,847	1,076,261	5,044,936	4,474,281
Beef, canned	264,143	177,655	1,313,858	1,189,137
Oleo oil	3,585,976	5,356,347	33,278,762	32,871,531
Totals	5,081,740	6,748,032	41,146,748	39,533,408

PORK PRODUCTS

	June		Six Months Ending June	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Pork, fresh	745,474	352,070	6,016,135	6,787,549
Pork, pickled	3,958,799	2,549,175	22,723,327	16,219,216
Bacon	12,760,654	9,620,314	72,676,933	67,073,189
Cumberland sides	856,197	422,550	3,580,657	2,975,539
Hams and shoulders	12,571,347	13,754,462	67,655,875	69,606,095
Wiltshire sides	706,354	53,016	2,660,354	394,900
Sausage, canned	122,101	128,859	1,136,442	1,094,409
Lard	67,251,997	53,435,938	417,219,816	396,027,826
Lard compounds	309,345	279,106	1,814,010	2,389,618
Neutral lard	1,013,783	2,059,072	9,609,972	15,044,363
Totals	100,296,051	82,654,562	605,093,521	577,612,704

Germany Increases Tariff Rates

Legislation has been enacted by the German Reichstag increasing the import duties on wheat, wheat flour, rye, oats, butter, and potatoes. The new rates became effective July 10.

FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, June 15, 1929.

AFTER YEARS OF DEPRESSION and pessimistic utterances, it is refreshing to find a growing tendency to regard the beef-cattle trade in the north of Australia as having a reasonably bright future. This, apart from the usual swing of the pendulum, is engendered to a large extent by improved marketing possibilities and a more sympathetic attitude on the part of the governments that control the destiny of those remote parts.

With regard to the latter, it may be mentioned that Queensland, after fourteen years of labor misrule, which, in its early stages in particular, was openly antagonistic to the cattle industry, has at last reverted to a sounder form of government. At the election held last month the Socialistic party was decisively beaten by the combined Nationalist and Country parties. One of the planks of the new government's policy is the granting of extended tenure to leaseholders in the cattle areas, and a reversion to freeholds in the more settled districts.

So far as tenures are concerned, it is proposed to adopt the recommendations made some time back by the Beef Cattle Inquiry Commission, to the effect that owners of cattle runs be given an extension of at least ten years beyond the period of their existing leases. When that is put into force, lessees will be assured of undisturbable occupancy for a sufficient period to justify spending money on improving their holdings and stock—things which few have done lately, owing to the probability of the early resumption of their runs. The new policy as regards freeholds will not affect cattle-breeders in the back country directly, but is likely to have a certain indirect effect on the industry as a whole. Freeholds will be granted only for relatively small areas close to the rail or coast, and it is thought that men there, with their holdings absolutely secure, will be more inclined to grow crops of lucerne (alfalfa) for finishing off cattle raised in the rougher back country. The lack of fattening areas near the meat-works is one of the present disabilities of the export trade in Australia. I may mention, in passing, that the federal government, recognizing the above fact, has recently initiated investigations into the possibilities of growing fodder crops on land adjacent to Wyndham meat-works, in the far northwest.

The improved marketing possibilities referred to are, of course, due to the steadily diminishing export from Argentina and an alleged shortage of cattle in other countries. Time alone can show whether there is any real justification for the belief that the decrease will be maintained. It is a subject that has been written about *ad infinitum* of late, and I can add nothing new to the discussion, beyond saying that it has created a more confident feeling amongst breeders in this country. Goodness knows that was needed. Obviously it will take some years to increase the cattle population of Australia, especially in the case of herds that have been depleted by the drought in the north.

Practically all the northern packing plants have been kill-

ing cattle for the oversea trade with full boards during the past month, and, judging by present appearances, most will continue to be fairly busy until at least the end of July. The companies operating in south Queensland are buying in the country on the basis of \$7.20 to \$7.45 per 100 pounds delivered for seconds and firsts. The rate in the central Queensland division is \$7.85 a hundred, and in the north of the state \$6 for firsts and \$5.50 for seconds. Occasionally a shade higher is offered for specially prime mobs. The market for fats remains firm in the southern states, prime ox beef being worth about \$13.20 per 100 pounds in the Melbourne yards.

Reference has been made in past letters to the trouble and loss caused to cattle-breeders in parts of the north by the buffalo fly. This little insect is about the same size as an ordinary housefly, but is possessed of an extraordinarily tough hide, which makes it difficult to kill. It is believed to have been introduced originally from Timor or Java with buffaloes many years ago, and for a time did not spread rapidly. Later, however, it has covered a good deal of the far north of Western Australia and of the federal territory known as North Australia, and from there is traveling into Queensland. Now it is feared that, once it becomes established at the rail-heads in Queensland, it will be difficult to prevent the pest from spreading right to the east coast. The fly is a blood-sucker and causes intense irritation to cattle, and to a less extent to horses and human beings. When attacked, stock cannot settle down to feed and speedily lose weight. Also, they not infrequently rub raw places, which are seized on by the flies as feeding-places, to the further suffering of the unfortunate animals. Dipping does nothing to check the attacks; for the flies

A NEW ERA for Agriculture Begins!

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The cattle business has come back, and our increasing population, in the face of decreasing cattle supplies, bids fair for a continuance of good profits in cattle-raising.

The sheep business is also enjoying a healthy prosperity.

Farm and Ranch lands are now lower than they were before the War. Past experience proves that a rise in land prices always occurs three to four years after a rise in agricultural and live-stock prices.

A well-known authority stated recently:

"We believe that the outlook for agriculture is now better than it has been for many years, and carefully purchased farm lands now offer a good long-pull investment."

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Chicago, Illinois

simply rise in clouds when cattle go through the bath, and return in clouds directly the skin is dry again.

In spite of repeated warnings and appeals by the stock-owners, the governments have only recently awakened to the seriousness of the menace. True, a preliminary investigation was carried out a year or so ago to determine the limits of infestation, but it was within the last few months that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research decided to send officers to Java and Timor to investigate the bionomics of the fly and the possibilities of biological control. Obviously these investigations will take time, and, if it is found possible to control the pest by parasites, the testing, introduction, and breeding-up of the latter will take years.

The matter was discussed at the annual conference of the Australian Veterinary Association in Sydney last month, when it was decided to urge the government to take prompt action to control the pest. The veterinarians went further and made definite suggestions as to how that might be done. Their proposal, which has been submitted to the federal authorities, is that a buffer area be created around the known infested country, such area to be entirely denuded of stock and, as far as

possible, of native animals. As no stock from infected country would be allowed to travel across the buffer area, the proposal would have the effect of practically isolating all cattle in the northwest until such time as a means was found of controlling the fly. To mitigate the hardship that would be imposed on graziers, it has been suggested that the governments keep the Wyndham meat-works open all the year around, and make provision for reopening Vestey Brothers' large packing plant in North Australia. The effect of that would be that beef would leave the north frozen or chilled, instead of on the hoof, as most of it does at present—a not uneconomic proposal when all the waste involved in droving and trucking is considered.

American Lard-Refining Plants in Mexico

Two American packers are reported to have taken over lard-refining plants in northern Mexico, for the purpose of circumventing the recent increase in the import duty on lard. Lard refined in Mexico is classified as Mexican product although originating in a foreign country.

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN LAMB CROP FALLS OFF

A decrease of over 3 per cent, or about 600,000 head, in the 1929 lamb crop in the thirteen western range states, as compared with that of 1928, is reported by government estimators. This reduction is attributed to a decrease in late lambs, as the early crop was as large as that of last year. Texas is the only state reporting an increase in number of lambs saved. The largest decreases were in Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon.

For the whole United States a decline of about 1 per cent in this year's lamb production is indicated. This would sig-

nify a total crop of 25,976,000, compared with 26,225,000 in 1928.

CATTLE-GRUBS CAUSE HEAVY LOSSES

Control of cattle-grubs or heel-flies is one of the most important insect problems with which owners of cattle of all classes have to deal, say F. C. Bishopp, E. W. Laake, and R. W. Wells, of the Bureau of Entomology, joint authors of Bulletin 1596-F, "Cattle Grubs or Heel Flies, with Suggestions for Their Control," just issued by the Department of

Agriculture. The cattle-grubs, or, as they are otherwise known, "warbles" or "wolves," cause losses estimated at from \$50,000,000 to \$100,000,000 annually. The bulletin traces the life-history and habits of the insect and explains methods of control.

The adult form of the insect, the heel-fly, is rarely seen, although its presence terrifies cattle and causes them to make frantic efforts to escape. Why this is so is not clear; for the insect has no mouth for biting, and it lays its eggs on the hair of the animal without causing pain. Two varieties are known—the common cattle-grub and the northern cattle-grub. The common grub is found over most of the United States. The northern grub is the more persistent and annoying in its attacks on cattle, and is found only rarely in the southern states, where infestations commonly die out without treatment. It is most prevalent in the northeastern states.

If the animal, made frantic by the approach of the fly, attempts to escape, the fly, in the case of the northern species, usually follows and makes darting attacks until many eggs are deposited. The eggs of both species hatch on the hair, and the tiny larvæ burrow into the skin, causing itching and discomfort. They pass up into the chest and abdominal cavities, where they are to be found for several months, concentrated primarily in the gullet or weasand. Then, while still small, the larvæ congregate just below the skin on the back of the animal. Here they cut holes in the skin and grow into good-sized mature grubs, shedding their skins twice during this period, and changing their shape and color considerably. When full-grown,

Keep Your Cattle Free from Skin Disease

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I have been using one of your machines for about three weeks, and have 150 head of range cattle running to it, and they started to use it right away.

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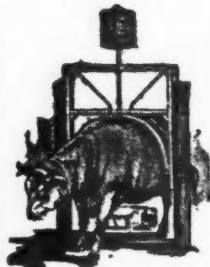
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they make their way out through the skin, drop to the ground, and change to flies within the grub skin, which forms a hard, black shell. The flies do not eat, but mate and lay eggs promptly, and the cycle is renewed. The whole process takes about one year.

The injury to the cattle comes through their frantic running caused by the flies, and through the parasitic action of the grubs, which result in less healthy and thrifty condition of the cattle and in lessened milk or beef production. Serious injury to the value of the hides is also caused from the holes cut by the grubs.

The bulletin gives information as to methods of control, extraction of the grubs by hand or with forceps, or killing them by applying insecticides. It has been found that fairly satisfactory local control is possible. The flies apparently do not migrate great distances. The authors, however, believe that, because of the serious damage the insects do, it may eventually become necessary to carry on a system of general eradication, either nation-wide or over large areas. Until such a campaign develops, they advise each owner to control the insects affecting his own animals.

A copy of the bulletin may be obtained by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MEASURING LOSSES FROM EROSION

After a study of erosion in southern Indiana, W. E. Tharp, of the Department of Agriculture soil-surveying staff, comments that it is often easy to estimate how rapidly the fields are losing their fertile and friable upper soil. Such losses, he says, may be seen by comparing the depth to the clay subsoil in the

field with the depth in a neighboring wooded belt in which the leaf-mulch holds the soil and prevents erosion by the runoff from rain-water.

In most soils there is a distinct line of separation between the topsoil and the subsoil. To test the loss from sheet erosion in the field, take a spade and dig a hole through the soil and into the subsoil. At the side of the hole make a straight downward cut with the spade, removing a clean slice of earth and exposing the soil in a smooth vertical surface. Then measure the distance from the surface to the line where the color changes. That is the depth of the surface soil. Dig a similar pit in woodland that has not been disturbed by logging. As a rule, the topsoil will be from one to several inches deeper in the woods than in the cultivated fields. The difference is a good guide to the loss from sheet erosion.

Gully erosion is obvious. It destroys the field so that it cannot be cultivated. Sheet erosion is less obvious, but more serious. It saps the productive power of the whole field. It is progressive. Sheet erosion usually affects the humus content of the soil even more rapidly than the mineral content. And, as the humus is reduced, erosion increases. The field that has started to wash will continue to wash worse, unless definite remedies and checks are provided.

SEAWEED FOR LIVE STOCK

Kelp, which is a coarse, brown-leaved seaweed growing in profusion along the Pacific coast, has been found to be an excellent feed for live stock. Experiments carried on at eastern universities, supplemented by tests at the Iowa and Utah agricultural experiment stations, have shown that the weed contains at least thirty valuable chemical elements, the most important of which is iodine. Mixed in small proportions with other feeds, the weed has been proved to possess medicinal qualities of a high order.

By adding kelp to a cow's ration, iodine may be fed into the milk. Chicago physicians are recommending this iodized milk to their patients, says an article in the *Farm Journal*. J. M. Ballard, of Indiana, who won the grand championship on hogs at the last International Live Stock Exposition, stated that his animals had been fed kelp.

LARGEST SOW IN WORLD

The distinction of possessing what is claimed to be the largest sow in the world goes to the Colorado Agricultural College at Fort Collins. This sow is a

FOR SALE

Approximately 700 head of extra well-bred white-faced steer calves, ready to wean October 15.
Address The Producer, 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado

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150 two-year-old steers, mostly fat; also about 500 head of stock cattle.

W. S. Phillips, Izee, Ore.

FOR SALE

Feeder lambs and feeder and breeding ewes; stocker steers and stocker cattle. Write for list. T. L. BENSON, Commission Dealer, Naylor Hotel Bldg., San Angelo, Texas.

FOR SALE

8,800-acre ranch at Chadwick, Missouri, two hours' run from Springfield, capital of Missouri. Partially wooded with valuable oak timber; rough hill land on northern edge of Ozarks; well watered by natural springs. Long pasture season; good grass; delightful climate. Ten dollars per acre. Ferguson and Company, Lincoln, Nebraska.

FOR SALE

4,040-acre ranch with equipment, in southern Rock County, Nebraska, 35 miles northwest of Burwell. Practically level; plenty good water and hay—clover, timothy, and redtop; fair set improvements. Price, \$15.00 per acre. Good terms. Possession at once.

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Duroc-Jersey, tipping the scale at 1,123 pounds. She measures nine feet four inches from the tip of her nose to the end of her tail, eighty-eight inches in circum-

ference around the heart, and forty-six inches in height. And she is still growing.

A WINGLESS CHICKEN


After five years of experimenting, a "laboratory technician" of Omaha, Nebraska, is credited with having evolved a breed of wingless and clawless chicken. The advantage of the new breed is supposed to be connected with the fact that egg production falls off during the period that the wing feathers are shed. Without wings, of course, the chicken cannot molt its wing feathers. This, however, leaves the claws unaccounted for. Without claws, a chicken cannot scratch either, it would seem.

Next we shall be tackling the job of developing a mule without vocal cords or rear delivery.

A Lesson in Promptness.—"Robert," said the manager to the office boy, "you are always the last to arrive in the morning; yet I notice that you are the first to leave at closing time."

"Well, sir," responded the cheeky youngster, "you wouldn't want me to be late twice a day, would you?"—*Boston Transcript.*

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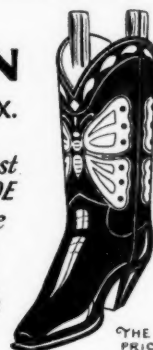
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Producers Must Organize

ORGANIZATION among live-stock producers will be necessary if the full benefits of the Agricultural Marketing Act are to be realized.

The stated policy of the Farm Board to extend assistance to individuals through co-operative marketing agencies only makes membership obligatory if any direct assistance is to be obtained. At no time has encouragement been given to unorganized agricultural producers, regardless of their dire needs. This is a day of organization, and the farmer who lags behind will get little sympathy in the new program for Agriculture which has been inaugurated by the present administration.

Assistance now, as in the past, will be rendered live-stock producers anywhere who wish to organize, and obtain the benefits which are to be derived, on application to

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

with the following marketing agencies

Producers Live Stock Commission Association
National Stock Yards, Illinois

Producers Commission Association
Indianapolis, Indiana

Producers Commission Association
Kansas City, Missouri

Peoria Producers Commission Association
Peoria, Illinois

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Producers Commission Association
Sioux City, Iowa

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
Buffalo, New York

Chicago Producers Commission Association
Chicago, Illinois

Producers Co-operative Commission Association
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Michigan Live Stock Exchange
Detroit, Michigan

Evansville Producers Commission Association
Evansville, Indiana

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